MARVEL

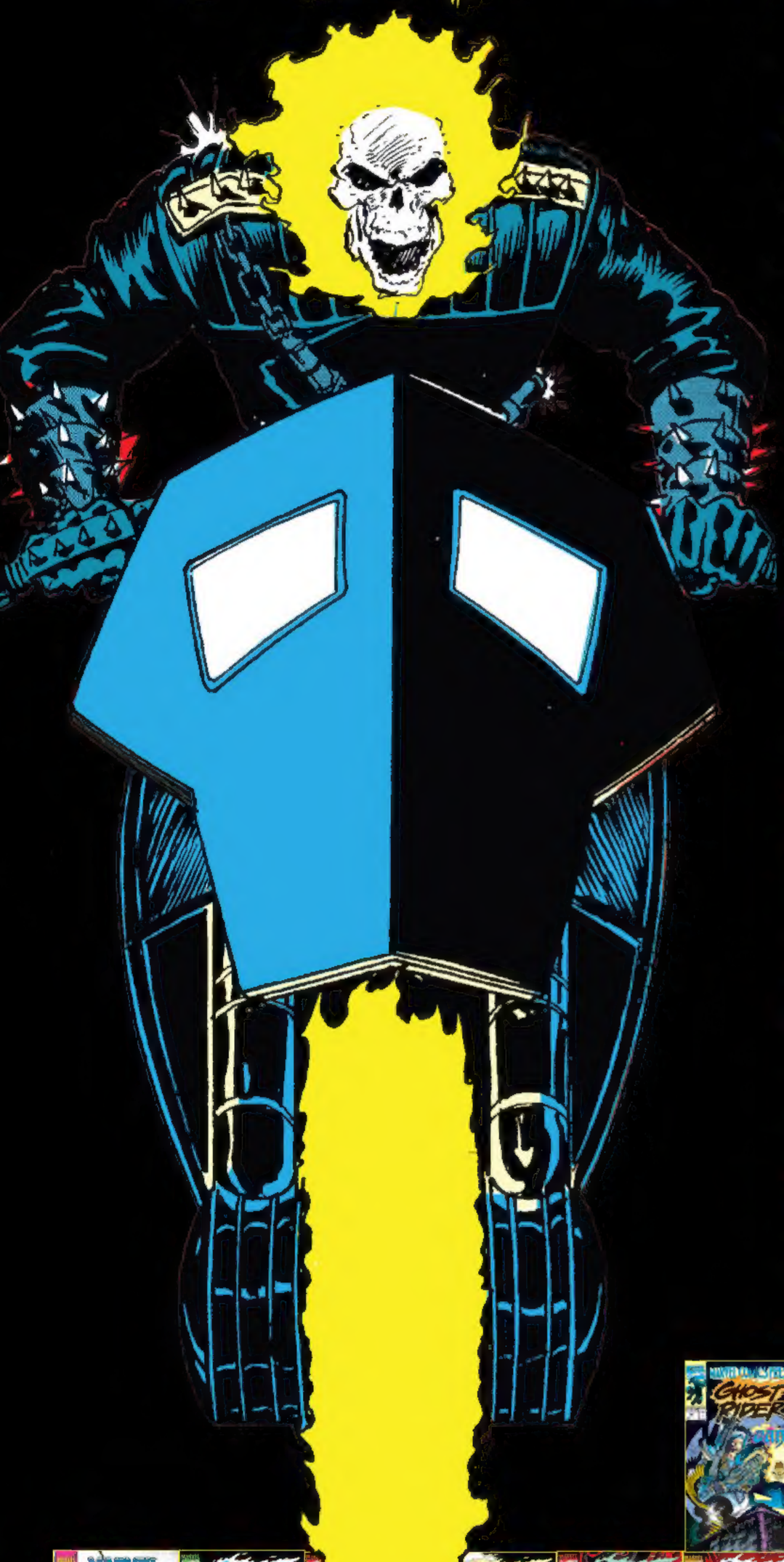
DANNY KETCH GHOST RIDER

TEX

MACKIE · SALTARES · TEXEIRA

A FAN-FAVORITE ERA OF

VENGEANCE!



Young **DANNY KETCH** becomes the new **GHOST RIDER** — and rides flaming-headfirst into battles with terrifying villains including **Blackout**, **Mister Hyde**, the **Scarecrow**, **Nightmare**, **Hobgoblin** and **Mephisto**! Blazing a trail across the Marvel Universe, Danny shares adventures with **Spider-Man**, **Doctor Strange**, **Wolverine**, **Cable**, the **Punisher** and more!

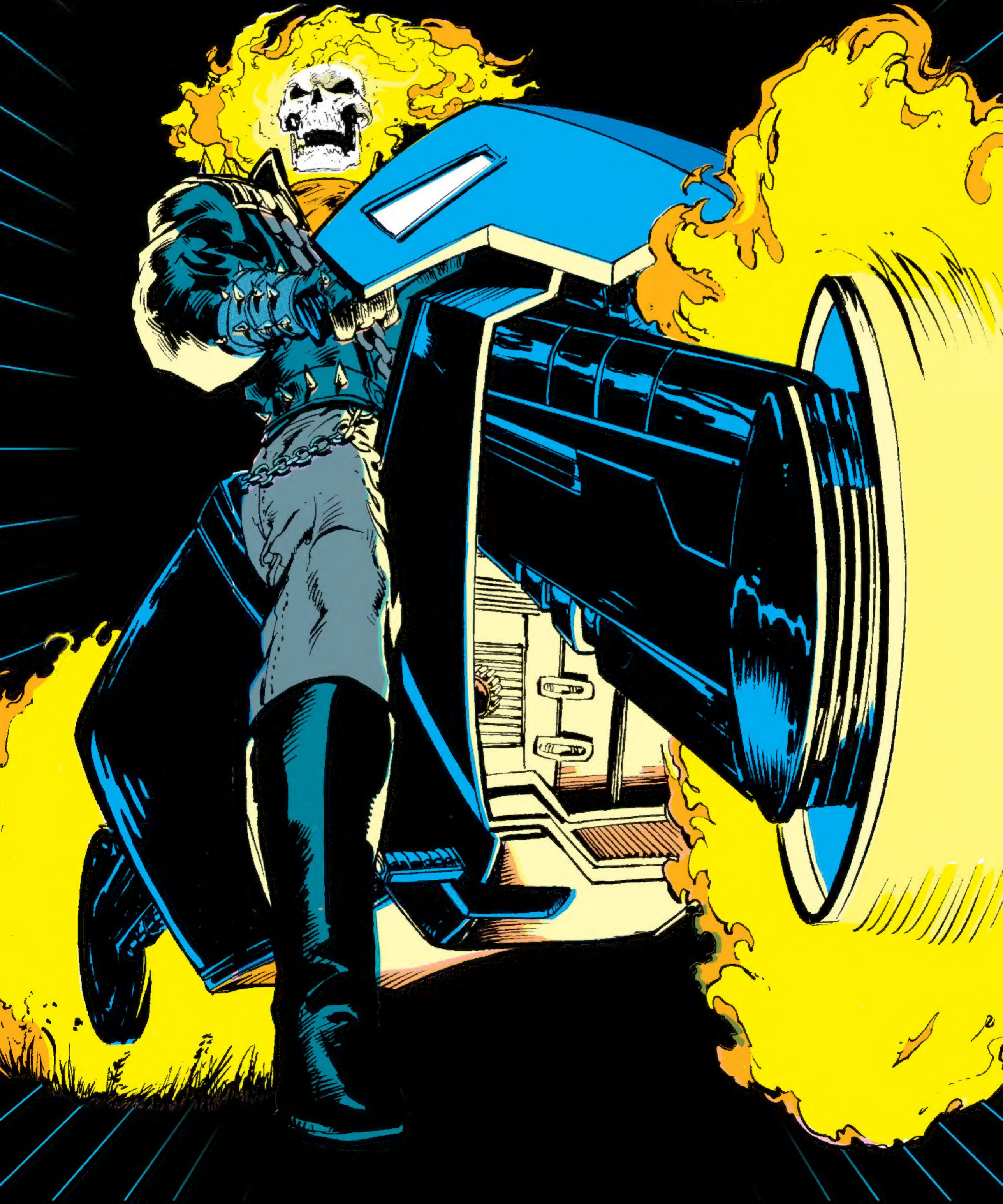
Collecting *Ghost Rider (1990) #1-24*; *Spider-Man (1990) #6-7*; *Marc Spector: Moon Knight #25*; *Doctor Strange, Sorcerer Supreme #28*; *Punisher War Journal (1988) #29-30*; *Ghost Rider/Wolverine/Punisher: Hearts of Darkness*; and material from *Marvel Comics Presents (1988) #64-71* and *#90-118*, and *Marvel Holiday Special (1991) #1* — written by Howard Mackie, Todd McFarlane, Roy Thomas, Dann Thomas, Mike Baron, Dan Slott, Chris Cooper and Joey Cavalieri; and illustrated by Javier Saltares, Mark Texeira, Larry Stroman, Ron Wagner, Andy Kubert, Todd McFarlane, Mark Bagley, Chris Marrinan, John Romita Jr., Guang Yap, Jimmy Palmiotti, Sam Kieth, Rick Leonardi, John Stanisci, Shawn McManus, John Hebert and Tim Vigil.

T+

MARVEL

DANNY KETCH GHOST RIDER

VOL. 1



DANNY KETCH GHOST RIDER VOL. 1

ASSISTANT EDITORS
GARY BARNUM, DAN CUDDY, KELLY CORVESE, ERIC FEIN, CHRIS COOPER, MICHAEL HEISLER, KEVIN KOBASIC & MARK POWERS

EDITORS
BOBBIE CHASE, JIM SALICRUP, TERRY KAVANAGH, DANNY FINGEROTH, RALPH MACCHIO & DON DALEY WITH RENÉE WITTERSTAETTER

FRONT COVER ARTISTS
MARK TEXEIRA & JOHN KALISZ

VARIANT COVER ARTIST
MARK TEXEIRA

COLLECTION EDITOR
DANIEL KIRCHHOFFER

ASSOCIATE MANAGER, TALENT RELATIONS
LISA MONTALBANO

ASSOCIATE MANAGER, DIGITAL ASSETS
JOE HOCHSTEIN

DIRECTOR, PRODUCTION & SPECIAL PROJECTS
JENNIFER GRÜNWALD

VP PRODUCTION & SPECIAL PROJECTS
JEFF YOUNGQUIST

PRODUCTION
COLORTEK & DEB WEINSTEIN

COORDINATOR, PRODUCTION & ART RESTORATION
JOE FRONTIRRE

BOOK DESIGNER
STACIE ZUCKER

MANAGER & SENIOR DESIGNER
ADAM DEL RE

LEAD DESIGNER
JAY BOWEN

SVP PRINT, SALES & MARKETING
DAVID GABRIEL

SR. MANAGER, DIGITAL
TIM SMITH 3

DIGITAL PRODUCTION
MEGHAN O'LEARY

EDITOR IN CHIEF
C.B. CEBULSKI

SPECIAL THANKS TO MIKE HANSEN & DOUG SHARK OF MYCOMICSHOP.COM

© 2024 MARVEL. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.

WRITERS
HOWARD MACKIE, TODD McFARLANE, MIKE BARON, CHRIS COOPER & JOEY CAVALIERI WITH ROY THOMAS, DANN THOMAS & DAN SLOTT

PENCILERS
JAVIER SALTARES, MARK TEXEIRA, TODD McFARLANE, MARK BAGLEY, LARRY STROMAN, CHRIS MARRINAN, GUANG YAP, JOHN ROMITA JR., RON WAGNER, SAM KIETH, RICK LEONARDI, JOHN STANISCI & SHAWN McMANUS WITH JOHN HEBERT, ANDY KUBERT, JIMMY PALMIOTTI & TIM VIGIL

INKERS
MARK TEXEIRA, JIMMY PALMIOTTI, TODD McFARLANE, HARRY CANDELARIO, TOM PALMER, MARK McKENNA, BUD LaROSA, KLAUS JANSON, SAM KIETH, KEN BRANCH & SHAWN McMANUS WITH AL MILGROM, MICHAEL BAIR, VINCE EVANS, ARIANE LENSHOEK, ANDY KUBERT & TIM VIGIL

COLORISTS
GREGORY WRIGHT, CHRISTIE SCHEELE, JOE ROSAS, GEORGE ROUSSOS, FREDDY MENDEZ, JOHN WELLINGTON & GLYNIS OLIVER WITH EVELYN STEIN & ARIANE LENSHOEK

LETTERERS
MICHAEL HEISLER, JANICE CHIANG, RICK PARKER, JIM NOVAK, CLEM ROBINS, KEN LOPEZ, PAT BROSSEAU, JOE ROSEN & STEVE DUTRO WITH DAVE SHARPE & MICHAEL HIGGINS

CONTENTS

GHOST RIDER #1, MAY 1990
"LIFE'S BLOOD" 6

GHOST RIDER #2, JUNE 1990
"DO BE AFRAID OF THE DARK!" 53

GHOST RIDER #3, JULY 1990
"DEATHWATCH" 76

GHOST RIDER #4, AUGUST 1990
"YOU CAN RUN, BUT YOU CAN'T HYDE!" 99

GHOST RIDER #5, SEPTEMBER 1990
"GETTING PAID!" 122

GHOST RIDER #6, OCTOBER 1990
"DO OR DIE!" 145

GHOST RIDER #7, NOVEMBER 1990
"OBSESSION" 168

GHOST RIDER #8, DECEMBER 1990
"LIVING NIGHTMARE" 191

GHOST RIDER #9, JANUARY 1991
"PURSUIT" 214

SPIDER-MAN #6, JANUARY 1991
"MASQUES, PART 1" 238

SPIDER-MAN #7, FEBRUARY 1991
"MASQUES, PART 2" 262

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #64, 1990
"ACTS OF VENGEANCE, PART ONE: GHOSTS OF THE PAST" 287

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #65, 1990
"ACTS OF VENGEANCE, PART TWO: CLAW & CHAIN" 296

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #66, 1990
"ACTS OF VENGEANCE, PART 3: DANCING IN THE DARK" 306

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #67, 1990
"ACTS OF VENGEANCE, PART 4: UNEASY ALLIANCE" 316

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #68, 1991
"ACTS OF VENGEANCE, PART 5: MUTANTS, NINJAS & DEMONS" 325

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #69, 1991
"ACTS OF VENGEANCE, PART 6: BRASS TACTICS" 334

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #70, 1991
"ACTS OF VENGEANCE, PART 7: CONFESSION IS GOOD FOR THE SOULLESS" 344

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #71, 1991
"ACTS OF VENGEANCE, PART 8: THE END" 354

MARC SPECTOR: MOON KNIGHT #25, APRIL 1991
"GHOSTS OF THE PAST" 364

GHOST RIDER #10, FEBRUARY 1991
"STARS OF BLOOD" 406

GHOST RIDER #11, MARCH 1991
"THROUGH A NIGHTMARE REVEALED..." ...429

GHOST RIDER #12, APRIL 1991
"STRANGE TALES" 452

DOCTOR STRANGE, SORCERER SUPREME #28, APRIL 1991
"STRANGE TALES, PART II" 475

GHOST RIDER #13, MAY 1991
"YOU'LL NEVER SEE WHAT'S COMING NEXT!" ..498

GHOST RIDER #14, JUNE 1991
"HAPPILY EVER AFTER?" 521

GHOST RIDER #15, JULY 1991
"LAST HOPE" 544

GHOST RIDER #16, AUGUST 1991
"CHANGES" 568

GHOST RIDER #17, SEPTEMBER 1991
"YOU'VE GOT TO HAVE FAITH!" 592

GHOST RIDER #18, OCTOBER 1991
"LOST SOULS!" 616

PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL #29, APRIL 1991
"CRASH AND BURN" 639

PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL #30, MAY 1991
"SPIN CYCLE" 663

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #90, 1991
"SERVANTS OF THE DEAD, PART 1 OF 8: LIFE UNDERGROUND" 686

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #91, 1991
"SERVANTS OF THE DEAD, PART 2 OF 8: CHASE IN THE DARK" 695

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #92, 1991
"THE SERVANTS OF THE DEAD, PART 3: IN THE CATHEDRAL OF THE DEAD" 704

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #93, 1991
"THE GRATEFUL UNDEAD, PART 4: NOTHING TO FEAR..." 713

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #94, 1991
"SERVANTS OF THE DEAD, PART 5: PURSUIT" 722

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #95, 1991
"SERVANTS OF THE DEAD, PART 6 OF 8: SHADOWS" 731

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #96, 1991
"THE SERVANTS OF THE DEAD, PART 7 OF 8: THE BRIDE" 740

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #97, 1992
"SERVANTS OF THE DEAD, PART 8 OF 8: DEATH'S SERVANT" 750

GHOST RIDER/WOLVERINE/PUNISHER: HEARTS OF DARKNESS, DECEMBER 1991 760

MARVEL HOLIDAY SPECIAL #1, 1991
"GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT" 810

GHOST RIDER #19, NOVEMBER 1991
"THE DEAL" 821

GHOST RIDER #20, DECEMBER 1991
"SIGN OF DEATH" 844

GHOST RIDER #21, JANUARY 1992
"BAD TO THE BONE!" 868

GHOST RIDER #22, FEBRUARY 1992
"DEATH'S EYES" 891

GHOST RIDER #23, MARCH 1992
"DEATH DRIVE" 914

GHOST RIDER #24, APRIL 1992
"DEATH DUEL" 937

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #98, 1992
"D'SPRYTE TIMES, D'SPRYTE MEASURES, PART 1 OF 2" 961

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #99, 1992
"D'SPRYTE TIMES, D'SPRYTE MEASURES, PART 2 OF 2: FALLEN SPIRITS" 970

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #100, 1992
"CHAPTER 1: DREAMS OF DOOM" 979
"CHAPTER 2: WHOSE NIGHTMARE IS IT ANYWAY?!" 989
"CHAPTER 3: MUTANT DREAMS" 997
"CHAPTER 4: AWAKENINGS" 1005

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #101, 1992
"DOORWAY TO DARKNESS, CHAPTER 1 OF 6: RUNNING" 1014

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #102, 1992
"DOORWAY TO DARKNESS, CHAPTER 2: GATHERING" 1023

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #103, 1992
"DOORWAY TO DARKNESS, CHAPTER 3: PAIN" 1032

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #104, 1992
"DOORWAY TO DARKNESS, CHAPTER 4 OF 6: THE OTHER SIDE" 1041

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #105, 1992
"DOORWAY TO DARKNESS, PART 5 OF 6: ENTER THE REALM OF GORN!" 1050

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #106, 1992
"DOORWAY TO DARKNESS, PART VI: THE FINAL DOORWAY" 1060

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #107, 1992
"RETURN OF THE BRAINEATERS, PART 1: BAD MOON RISING" 1069

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #108, 1992
"RETURN OF THE BRAINEATERS, PART 2 — CLAW AND BONE" 1078

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #109, 1992
"RETURN OF THE BRAINEATERS, PART 3: BATTLE ON THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE" 1087

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #110, 1992
"RETURN OF THE BRAINEATERS, PART FOUR — UNDERCOVER AT THE BLACK MOON BAR & GRILL" 1096

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #111, 1992
"RETURN OF THE BRAINEATERS, PART 5 — ROADKILL!!" 1105

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #112, 1992
"RETURN OF THE BRAINEATERS, PART SIX: SHOWDOWN" 1114

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #113, 1992
"LEGION OF VENGEANCE, PART ONE: THE NIGHT HAS A THOUSAND EYES!" 1124

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #114, 1992
"LEGION OF VENGEANCE, PART 2 OF 6: IF THE MIND'S EYE OFFEND THEE..." 1133

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #115, 1992
"LEGION OF VENGEANCE, PART 3 OF 6: THE SECRET OF STRONTIUM-90!" 1142

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #116, 1992
"LEGION OF VENGEANCE, PART 4: OUR NAME IS LEGION..." 1151

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #117, 1992
"LEGION OF VENGEANCE, PT. 5: A WORLD OF D'KAY" 1160

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #118, 1992
"LEGION OF VENGEANCE, PT. 6: VENGEANCE IS OURS!" 1169

MARVEL® COMICS

FANTASTIC 1ST ISSUE!™

© 1990 MARVEL ENT. GROUP, INC.

$1.95 US
$2.50 CAN
1
MAY
01317

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

GHOST RIDER

JAVIER SALTARES 89'

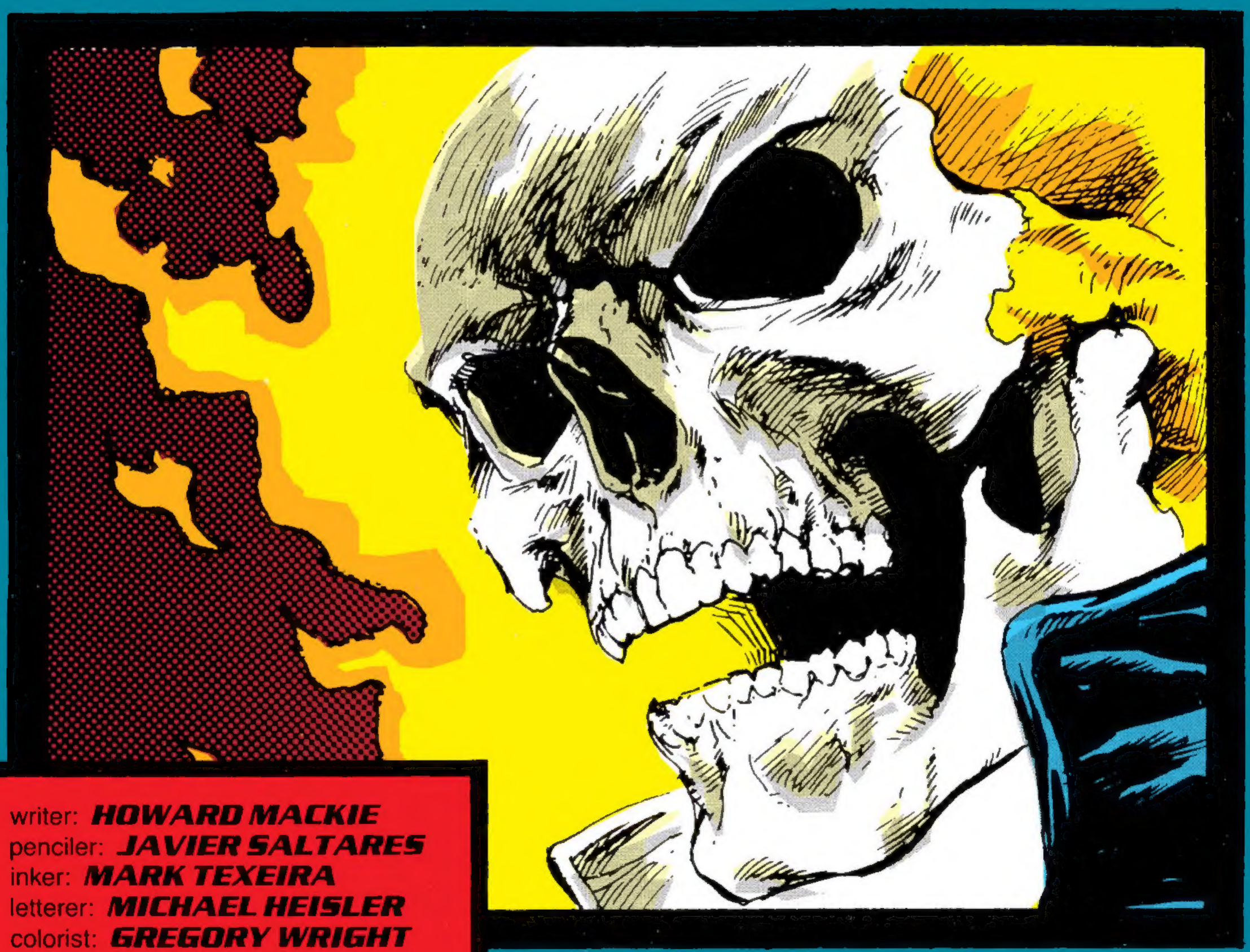
A SPIRIT REBORN!

WHEN INNOCENT BLOOD IS SPILLED, A SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE IS BORN, AND DANNY KETCH FINDS HIMSELF TRANSFORMED INTO THE

GHOST RIDER

STAN LEE PRESENTS:

LIFE'S BLOOD



writer: **HOWARD MACKIE**
penciler: **JAVIER SALTARES**
inker: **MARK TEXEIRA**
letterer: **MICHAEL HEISLER**
colorist: **GREGORY WRIGHT**
editor: **BOBBIE CHASE**
editor in chief: **TOM DeFALCO**

"Revenge proves its own executioner."
—John Ford

"I am the spirit of vengeance. Nothing will stop me from inflicting pain on all those who have inflicted it on innocent beings."
—Ghost Rider

CYPRESS HILLS CEMETERY...

FOR DECADES THIS **GRAVEYARD** HAS SERVED AS THE FINAL RESTING PLACE FOR THE **BODIES** OF DEPARTED **SOULS.**

HERE THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD HAVE FOUND COMFORT AND **PEACE.**

TONIGHT ONE SPIRIT WILL BE REBORN IN **FIRE AND BLOOD. TONIGHT** NO PEACE WILL COME TO--

--THE GHOST RIDER, SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE.

BARB, I'M **DEAD** IF MOM FINDS OUT THAT I BROUGHT YOU IN HERE TONIGHT!

CHILL OUT, **DAN.** I'M NOT GOING TO TELL HER. ANYWAY, SOME MANIAC WILL PROBABLY **DISEMBOWEL** US LONG BEFORE MOM CAN GROUND US!

DON'T EVEN KID AROUND LIKE THAT. YOU **KNOW** THE REPUTATION THIS PLACE HAS... MURDERS, CHILD ABDUCTIONS, AND WEIRD RELIGIOUS CULTS THAT HAVE SACRIFICED DOGS, CATS, AND WHO KNOWS WHAT ELSE IN HERE!

YOU'VE BEEN READING TOO MUCH STEPHEN KING, *LITTLE BROTHER!*

YOU PROMISED YOU'D TAKE ME TO SEE **HOUDINI'S** GRAVESITE ON **HALLOWEEN EVE**, AND YOU'RE NOT BACKING OUT.

I WANT TO GET SOME PICTURES OF THOSE ALLEGED **PSYCHICS** TRYING TO MAKE CONTACT WITH HIM ON THE OTHER SIDE.

RELAX. LET'S JUST HAVE SOME FUN. **MONSTERS** AREN'T WAITING FOR US AROUND EVERY CORNER--!

I HAVE A REAL BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS PLACE, BARB!

IT WAS JUST LAST HALLOWEEN THAT THOSE FIVE KIDS FROM RIDGEWOOD **DISAPPEARED**--

BOOOOOOO!

R-RUN!

NO, DAN, THEY'RE JUST KIDS--!

HA, HA, HA! LOOK AT THE BIG **DOPE!**

WHATTA YA AFRAID THAT THE **BOGEYMAN** IS GONNA GET YA?

HEY, CUTIE, WHAT'CHA GOT IN THIS PURSE OF YOURS?

HEY!

MAYBE A **TREAT** SO WE DON'T PLAY A **TRICK** ON YOU?!

HANDS OFF THE CAMERA BAG, YOU LITTLE BIMBO!

YEOW!

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE! THESE WIMPS AIN'T WORTH THE TIME OF THE **CYPRESS POOL JOKERS!**

LET'S GET TO THE GRAVESITE, MY **BODYGUARD**, BEFORE HOUDINI REALLY **DOES** COME BACK TO LIFE!

BARB, I'M SORRY I WASN'T MORE HELP. **NEXT** TIME...

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

BTOOM AKKKK!

WHAT'S THAT? IT SOUNDED LIKE A GUNSHOT AND A SCREAM!

PROBABLY JUST THOSE KIDS AGAIN--

--BUT IT COULD BE SOMETHING GOOD THAT I COULD GET ON FILM!

BARB, WAIT, IT ISN'T SAFE!

DON'T WORRY, DAN, THIS COULD BE *EXCITING*.

NOW SHUSH. I THINK THE NOISE CAME FROM RIGHT OVER HERE BY *GALLAGHER'S JUNKYARD*.

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE NOT THE *ONLY* CURIOUS ONES.

THEY'D BETTER GET OUT OF THERE. 'CAUSE FROM THE LOOKS OF THINGS--

CYPRESS POOL

JOKERS

CYPRESS POOL

JOKERS

CYPRESS POOL

JOKE

--SOMETHING PRETTY UGLY IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN!

BACK OFF, YOU COSTUMED CLOWN! THIS HERE BELONGS TO THE *KINGPIN*!

SO WE'RE GONNA HAFTA *BURN* YOU FOR KILLING HIS COURIER.

NO OFFENSE.

SNAP

NONE TAKEN.

GLAD TO SEE YOU AIN'T GONNA PUT UP A *FIGHT*--

--WE DO HAVE YOU OUTNUMBERED FOUR TO ONE.

JUST STAND STILL AND WE'LL DO YOU AS QUICK AND PAINLESS AS POSSIBLE.

TONY?

FWIP

BKOOM

WHAT THE--?

GURGH!

WHO...ARE... YOU?

I AM *DEATHWATCH.*

I AM YOUR DEATH!

KRAK

KERACK

NO!!!

WHAT WAS THAT?

UP THERE! THAT GIRL.

SHE'S SEEN MY FACE.

KILL HER.

HUHF!

WHOOSHMP

BARB!

TOO MANY PEOPLE ARE GETTIN' TRASHED HERE!

LET'S TAKE OFF.

C'MON, PAULIE, GET OUTTA THERE!

PAULIE!!

EVERYONE WANTED THIS SUITCASE PRETTY BAD. IT'S GOTTA BE FULL OF DRUGS OR MONEY OR SOMETHING.

AND SINCE IT AIN'T DOING THIS DEAD GUY NO GOOD--

--I MIGHT AS WELL HELP MYSELF TO IT!

WHAT?

THE CASE!

STOP THAT CHILD AND RETURN THE CASE AT ALL COSTS.

BE CAREFUL--

--ITS CONTENTS ARE MORE VALUABLE THAN ANY OF YOUR LIVES.

I AM LEAVING BEFORE I AM DISCOVERED AMONGST THIS HUMAN REFUSE.

DO NOT FAIL ME! AND LEAVE NO WITNESSES!

NEARBY...

I KNOW THIS PLACE LIKE THE BACK OF MY HAND!

THEY'LL NEVER FIND US IN HERE.

JUST HOLD ON, BARB, I'VE GOT YOU.

WE'LL HIDE UNDER HERE UNTIL THEY LEAVE--

--THEN I'LL GET YOU TO A HOSPITAL.

YOU'RE GOING TO BE OKAY--!

OOMPH!

WHAT'S THAT GLOWING IN THE DARK? EYES?!

NO! NO MORE! GO AWAY!

THE BLOOD TRAIL ENDS HERE.

THEY COULD BE HIDING ANYWHERE IN ALL THIS WRECKAGE.

AND WE DON'T HAVE ALL NIGHT BEFORE THE AUTHORITIES APPEAR.

MY FRIEND, WE WANT TO HELP YOU! WE WANT TO HELP YOU AND THE GIRL. IT WAS ALL A TERRIBLE MISTAKE.

COME OUT AND LET US TAKE HER TO A DOCTOR.

DON'T WORRY, BARB, I'LL PROTECT YOU.

THEY WON'T HURT YOU ANY MORE.

LIGHTS IN THE DARK STILL GLOWING.

MORE THINGS TO HURT US?

NO.

A MOTORCYCLE.

SO NEW. IT SHOULDN'T BE HERE! NOT WITH ALL THIS JUNK.

CAN'T THINK ABOUT THAT NOW--

--HAVE TO TRY AND STOP THE BLEEDING.

SO MUCH BLOOD--

--ALL OVER ME.

ALL OVER EVERYTHING.

I'VE GOT THE GIRL AND THE CASE. LET'S GO!

DEATHWATCH WANTS NO WITNESSES AND WE HAVEN'T FOUND THE OTHER TWO YET.

WE DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO WASTE LOOKING FOR THEM--

HERE. THEN DESTROY IT ALL!

THERMITE GRENADES ARE SO ALL-ENCOMPASSING!

THIS IS IT, FRIEND. YOUR LAST CHANCE. COME OUT. LET US HELP YOU!

EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE OKAY, BARB!

I WON'T LET THEM HURT YOU ANYMORE!

I'M GOING TO MAKE THE BLEEDING STOP.

BUT THERE'S TOO MUCH BLOOD! SO HOT AND STICKY ON MY HANDS.

I'D DO *ANYTHING* TO SAVE HER.

THE GAS CAP. GLOWING?!

NOOOOOOOO!

THAT'S IT.

THE GIRL MUST'VE DIED.

USE THE GRENADE NOW. LEAVE NO EVIDENCE.

RRRMMMBBBLE

TCHINK

THE GROUND IS SHAKING-- THAT GLOW. WHAT IS IT?

WHO IS IT?!

I AM GHOST RIDER, THE SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE!

I DON'T KNOW WHO OR WHAT THAT THING IS, BUT IT HAS THE *OTHER* GIRL.

KILL THEM--

--KILL THEM ALL!

RELEASE HER OR DIE!

YOU'LL DIE FIRST, FREAK!

NO MORE INNOCENTS WILL BE HARMED HERE TODAY!

KA-BOOM!

QUICKLY, KILL THE GIRL -- I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM!

BUT?!

TCHINK

MHAKRAK

YOU MUST SUFFER FOR THE PAIN YOU HAVE SOUGHT TO INFLICT--

--THE PAIN FELT BY THOUSANDS OF INNOCENT BEINGS!

N-NO! NO...

NOOOO!

NOBODY MOVE!

WROOO

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP, MISTER! 'BYE!

POLICE

POLICE

I DON'T KNOW WHERE THE REST OF YOUR PALS WENT, BUT YOU JUST FREEZE IT RIGHT THERE, BUDDY!

THE GIRL NEEDS MEDICAL ATTENTION!

WE'LL GIVE HER ALL THE ATTENTION SHE NEEDS AFTER WE CUFF YOU.

WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE DRESSED UP AS, MAN?!

JUST CUFF 'IM, JIMMY!

TAKE HIM DOWN, BOYS!

KERACK

CUTE, DIRTBAG! ONE MORE MOVE LIKE THAT AND I'LL SPLATTER YOU AND THAT *FREAKY MASK* OF YOURS ALL OVER THE GROUND!

YOU'RE COMING IN WITH US -- ONE WAY OR THE OTHER!

SNOK!

THE INNOCENT BLOOD SPILLED HERE TONIGHT MUST BE AVENGED!

OOF!

IT IS MY SOLEMN DUTY.

DO HIM!

POLICE

I CANNOT BE STOPPED.

SREE

I WILL NOT BE STOPPED.

FWAM!

DO NOT TRY TO FOLLOW ME.

WHAT WAS THAT THING?

THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A ROUTINE PUBLIC DISTURBANCE AND TRES-PASSING CALL!

WELL, IT TURNED OUT TO BE A WHOLE LOT MORE THAN THAT.

CALL FOR AN AMBULANCE AND SOME BACK-UP. THIS GIRL IS IN REAL BAD SHAPE. WHO KNOWS HOW MANY OTHER BODIES THAT FREAK LEFT BEHIND!

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

THAT'S GOTTA BE HIM. LET'S TAKE HIM.

WREOOOO

POLICE

YOU, ON THE BIKE! PULL OVER!!

CLIK

FWOOSH

RRAWWW

I DON'T BELIEVE THAT.

ME NEITHER, BUT TWO UNITS HAVE HIM BOXED OFF AT THE END OF THE BLOCK.

UNITS 265 AND 317, WE'VE GOT HIM BETWEEN US. THERE'S NOWHERE FOR THE FREAK TO GO NOW.

265

UH, I WOULDN'T SAY THAT.

DISPATCH, WE NEED MORE UNITS OUT HERE-- PRONTO!

I CAN LET NOTHING STOP ME FROM FINDING THOSE WHO HAVE SPILLED THE BLOOD OF THE INNOCENT.

NOTHING.

END OF THE LINE, BUDDY. PUT IT IN PARK BEFORE WE BLOW YOU AWAY.

NOTHING.

CLICK

FWAAAM

NOTHING!

GET ON THE HORN. I WANT EVERY AVAILABLE UNIT ON THAT GUY.

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

WE GOT HIM. WE GOT HIM!

DISPATCH. THIS IS UNIT 54. WE'VE GOT THE SUSPECT IN THE JUNKYARD ATTACK CORNERED ON 94TH STREET.

IT'S A DEAD END STREET.

THERE'S NOWHERE FOR HIM--

--TO...GO?

VROOM!

LATER THAT NIGHT...

SALEM FIELDS

INNOCENT BLOOD HAS BEEN SPILLED TONIGHT--

--AWAKENING ME FROM MY LONG SLEEP.

VENGEANCE MUST BE DELIVERED.

VENGEANCE BY MY HANDS.

VENGEANCE BY MY--

--HANDS?

WHAT'S HAPPENED?

WHAT HAVE I DONE?

I HAVE TO FIND BARB!

I HAVE TO GET AWAY.

WALL STREET.

THE FINANCIAL CAPITAL OF THE WORLD.

HERE, IN THE SHADOW OF THE WORLD TRADE CENTER, FORTUNES ARE WON AND LOST EVERY DAY.

TONIGHT, MORE THAN MONEY HANGS IN THE BALANCE.

SEND THEM IN.

THE BRIEFCASE. WHERE IS IT?

WE WEREN'T ABLE TO GET IT BACK.

YEAH! SOME GUY ON A MOTORCYCLE DID A NUMBER ON **CARL** AND THE KID TOOK OFF WITH THE CASE.

AND YOU RETURNED TO ME ANYWAY?

SAY NO MORE.

I WILL LEARN OF YOUR FAILURE IN MY *OWN* WAY.

WITH THE SKILL OF A PSYCHIC SURGEON, **DEATHWATCH** PENETRATES THE ASSASSIN'S SKULL WITH HIS FINGERS.

RECENT MEMORIES ARE ABSORBED.

MEMORIES OF VIOLENCE AND--

--PAIN.

ARR--ENOUGH!

YOU HAVE FAILED ME--

--AND YOU KNOW THE PENALTY FOR FAILURE.

NO! I'M NOT PLAYING ANY MORE OF YOUR SICK GAMES.

I'LL KILL YOU FIRST!

BLAM

HUUCKK

NICE OF YOU TO VOLUNTEER YOUR LIFE, SO THAT YOUR FRIENDS CAN CONTINUE LIVING.

THANK CARL, GENTLEMEN.

KRAK

THANKS, CARL.

FIND THE GIRL WITH THE SUITCASE.

I WANT IT, AND ITS CONTENTS, IN MY HANDS BEFORE THAT FAT, PETTY THUG HAS A CHANCE TO RECOVER IT.

DO NOT FAIL ME AGAIN.

THE FISK BUILDING IN MIDTOWN MANHATTAN.

WILSON FISK IS KNOWN TO MANY AS A RUTHLESS AND ACCOMPLISHED BUSINESSMAN.

TO OTHERS HE IS A COMMON CRIMINAL BENEATH CONTEMPT.

BUT TO THOSE WHO TRULY KNOW AND FEAR HIM HE IS--

--THE KINGPIN, POWERFUL OVERLORD OF EVERY CRIMINAL ACTIVITY IN NEW YORK CITY.

THE KINGPIN'S POWER IS NOT ONLY FIGURATIVE.

WHAK

SWAK

YOU CALL YOURSELVES MARTIAL ARTS MASTERS?

SLAM

SWOOSH

FINISH ME.

YOU RELY ON YOUR KATANA TOO MUCH, KENJI.

ANY WEAPON CAN BE TAKEN AWAY--

--AND DISABLED.

AH--EXCUSE ME, MR. FISK. I HAVE SOME BAD NEWS.

THE DELIVERY WE WERE EXPECTING THIS EVENING HAS BEEN WAYLAID.

ONE OF OUR COURIERS WAS ABLE TO PASS ON SOME INFORMATION REGARDING THE THEFT. I HAVE OUR PEOPLE SEARCHING FOR IT EVEN AS WE SPEAK.

THE CONTENTS OF THAT SUITCASE POSE A GREAT DANGER TO OUR ORGANIZATION. IT MUST NOT FALL INTO THE WRONG HANDS.

BRING ME THAT SUITCASE AND THE NAMES OF THE PEOPLE WHO DARE INTERFERE WITH ONE OF MY OPERATIONS.

SALEM FIELDS

MEANWHILE, IN ANOTHER PART OF THE CYPRESS HILLS CEMETERY...

I HOPE THEY AIN'T FOLLOWING ME!

THIS CASE HAS GOT TO BE PRETTY VALUABLE FOR ALL THOSE GUYS TO DIE FOR IT.

PROBABLY FULL OF DRUGS, OR BETTER YET--CASH!

ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT. TAKE IT TO A NICE QUIET PLACE AND--

IN LOVING MEMORY...

--OPEN IT!

YO, PAULIE, WE THOUGHT YOU WAS DEAD!

ALL RIGHT, YOU STILL GOT THE CASE!

BRING IT HERE AND I'LL POP THE LOCKS!

CLIK

DO IT QUICK, RALPHIE! I'VE GOT A GOOD FEELING ABOUT--

--THIS?!

WHERE'S THE MONEY? THE DRUGS?

IN THE BANK AND THE DRUG STORE, BABE!

LOOKS LIKE YOU ALMOST GOT YOURSELF KILLED FOR THREE CANS OF DEODORANT OR SOMETHING.

THERE'S GOT TO BE SOMETHING MORE!

SO WE'D BETTER GET RID OF THEM BEFORE THOSE GUYS FROM THE CEMETERY COME LOOKING FOR THEM!

THEN LET'S MAKE SURE WE PUT THEM WHERE THEY'LL NEVER FIND THEM!

WELL, IT AIN'T ANYTHING WE CAN USE!

BUT THOSE GUYS IN THE CEMETERY... AND THE ONE THAT SAVED ME... HIS HEAD WAS ON FIRE!

SO'S YOUR BRAIN!

EMERGENCY

EMERGENCY

NCY

OH, NO! MRS. KETCH, DAD--

--LOOK!

DANIEL?

STAY RIGHT THERE, BOY! EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE FINE.

NOT MY SON, TOO!

DAN! IT'S CAPTAIN DOLAN. JUST HANG ON!

SOMEONE GET A DOCTOR-- QUICK!

NEXT DAY...

YOU GAVE US QUITE A SCARE, BOY!

BUT YOU DON'T SEEM TO BE TOO MUCH THE WORSE FOR WEAR!

OHN'S HOSPIT

WE REALLY COULD USE YOUR HELP IN FIGURING OUT WHAT HAPPENED IN THE CEMETERY.

I REALLY DON'T REMEMBER TOO MUCH.

DANIEL, THANK THE LORD YOU'RE ALL RIGHT. I KNOW THIS IS A SIGN THAT BARB IS GOING TO GET BETTER AS WELL.

YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO TRY IF WE'RE GOING TO CATCH THE GUY WHO HURT YOUR SISTER.

DADDY, BACK OFF A LITTLE!

MRS. KETCH? I NEED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT YOUR DAUGHTER.

BARB? IS SHE ALL RIGHT? CAN I SEE HER?

SHE'S STILL IN SERIOUS CONDITION, BUT I SUPPOSE YOU CAN SEE HER FOR FIVE MINUTES!

DOCTOR, I'D LIKE TO SEE MY DAUGHTER AS WELL.

I'D RATHER TALK TO YOU ABOUT HER CONDITION IN MY OFFICE.

DANIEL, GIVE YOUR SISTER MY LOVE. I'LL BE THERE AS SOON AS I CAN.

YEAH, MOM.

DON'T WORRY, DAN, I'LL STAY WITH YOUR MOM. EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE OKAY. YOU'LL SEE.

BARB?

BARB?

I HOPE YOU CAN HEAR ME, BECAUSE I NEED YOU NOW MORE THAN I EVER DID BEFORE.

BEEP

BEEP

BEEP

ABOUT LAST NIGHT.

I TRIED MY BEST TO PROTECT YOU!

IT JUST WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH!

I'M SORRY.

YOU *HAVE* TO GET BETTER, BARB.

BEEP

SO MUCH IS HAPPENING THAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE THAT I'VE EVER BEEN ABLE TO TURN TO.

BEEP

BEEP

PLEASE, BARB--

--I...NEED...YOU!

BEEP

BEEP

BEEP

BEEP

A FEW HOURS LATER...

THE DOCTOR SAYS THAT BARB'S CONDITION HAS STABILIZED TEMPORARILY.

SHE'S GOT TO GET BETTER SO SHE CAN HELP ME FIGURE OUT WHAT'S GOING ON.

TALKING TO BARB MADE ME REALIZE THAT ONLY ONE THING HOLDS ANY ANSWERS FOR ME.

WELL, HERE GOES!

VROOMM

BARB ALWAYS TOLD ME TO CONFRONT THE UNKNOWN HEAD ON.

WITH ANY LUCK THE MAGIC, OR WHATEVER IT IS THAT'S IN THIS THING, WILL HELP ME HEAL BARB.

HALF A MILE AWAY ON JAMAICA AVENUE...

KEEEE-SH

AW, PAULIE, LOOK WHAT YOU MADE ME DO!

NICE MOVE, JOHNNY! NOW THE LADY'S OREOS ARE TRASHED.

SCREEE

YO, JOKERS, HEADS UP!

DON'T GET SCARED, KIDS. I JUST WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THE BRIEFCASE YOU LIFTED LAST NIGHT.

TELL US WHERE WE CAN FIND IT AND WE'RE OUT OF HERE. TRUST ME, THERE'S NOTHING IN IT THAT'S WORTH ANYTHING TO YOU!

WE DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT! WHY DON'T YOU GET YOUR TAIL OFF OUR STREET?

NICE MOUTH, PUNK.

YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE ANOTHER ONE IN THE BACK OF YOUR HEAD IF SOMEBODY DOESN'T HAND OVER THE SUITCASE NOW!

I-I-I...

ARRGPH!

WHO THE--?

BACK OFF! THE KID'S ARE OURS!

IT'S DEATHWATCH'S MEN AGAIN!

THIS TIME WE'RE READY FOR THE PAJAMA WEARING CREEPS!

DO 'EM!

BRAAAP

KILL THEM ALL, BUT DON'T LET THE KIDS GET AWAY!

BUDDA BUDDA

UNGHARG

BUDDA BUDDA BRAAAP BR...AAP

PTING

NO! WE'VE GOT TO GET AWAY! COME ON, RALPHIE, GET UP! WE'VE GOTTA RUN!

PTING

PAULIE, GET DOWN!

THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANYTHING WEIRD ABOUT THIS BIKE!

I WONDER IF I IMAGINED THE WHOLE THING AFTER BARB GOT HURT?

AIEEEE!

BUDDA BUDDA BRAAAP

SOMETHING'S GOING ON DOWN NEAR THE EL!

BUDDA BUDDA BRAAAP

NO... NOT AGAIN!

IF I TOUCH IT I MIGHT TURN INTO THAT THING AGAIN -- THAT *MONSTER!*

NO, I CAN'T, I *WON'T!*

AS HIS HAND MAKES CONTACT WITH THE GLOWING GAS CAP, DAN'S BODY IS ENGULFED BY MYSTICAL FUMES.

AAARRRF

NO.

THE FUMES IGNITE INTO HELLFIRE...

NO!

INSTANTANEOUSLY HE IS TRANSFORMED INTO--

FWOOSH

--THE GHOST RIDER, SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE!

THOSE WHO LOOK ON CANNOT BELIEVE THEIR EYES.

THE MORNING NEWS-PAPERS WILL BE FULL OF THEIR DISBELIEF.

SALTARES • TEXEIRA & PI INC.

WE'RE **DEAD**, MAN! WE'RE **DEAD**! NO MATTER WHO WINS WE'RE GONNA GET **KILLED**! ALL BECAUSE OF THAT STUPID **SUITCASE**.

SHUT UP, ANGEL!

YA GOTTA GET BEHIND SOMETHING, PAULIE.

BUT--RALPHIE...

WASTE THEM! WASTE THEM ALL--OR THE KINGPIN IS GONNA HAVE OUR BUTTS!

YO, VIC, BEHIND US... SOMETHING WEIRD!

OH, @#☆$&%!

IT'S THE GUY WITH THE WEIRD HELMET WHO SCREWED UP LAST NIGHT'S OPERATION!

HE'S CORRECT. IT'S THE ONE DEATHWATCH WANTS DEAD. SO DO IT--**NOW**!

BUDDA BUDDA

YOUR KIND WILL QUICKLY LEARN THAT I AM NOT EASILY HARMED, CHILD KILLER!

TING

CHTINK

YOU WILL ALSO LEARN--

OOOOOO

ARGH!

SWOOSH

CHTINK

--THAT THE SAME CANNOT BE SAID OF YOU!

CHILDREN, I MEAN YOU NO HARM!

COME. I WILL SEE THAT YOU ARE SAFE!

MY EYES DISSIN' ME OR WHAT?

SHWOOSH

YOU AREN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN USE A CHAIN, BIKER!

THOUGH I APPRECIATE YOU GETTING RID OF ANOTHER ONE OF DEATHWATCH'S MEN.

THIS WEAPON WILL PROVE EVEN LESS EFFECTIVE THAN THE LAST.

HOLY--!

WHOMP

I'M DONE *PLAYING AROUND* WITH YOU, MAN.

THE KINGPIN GAVE ME A JOB TO DO AND I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU STOP ME!

YOU'RE *WASTED.*

THAT'S A *HEAVY DUTY* PIECE HE'S GOT. LET'S GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THE WHOLE BLOCK GETS TRASHED.

EAT THIS, JERK!

SHTKOOM!

OH, NO! RALPHIE, HE WAS OUR ONLY CHANCE!

PAULIE, YOU GOT TO GET AWAY.

TOOK CARE OF THAT PAIN IN THE BUTT-- FOR GOOD.

LOOKS LIKE IT'S JUST--

--THE TWO OF US LEFT!

IT APPEARS WE HAVE A STAND-OFF.

WHY NOT CALL A TRUCE UNTIL WE GET THE INFORMATION WE BOTH SEEM TO REQUIRE FROM THE GIRL--

--ONCE WE GET IT WE CAN THEN SETTLE BETWEEN OURSELVES.

YOU GOT IT!

THIS SHOULD DISTRACT HIM LONG ENOUGH TO LET ME GET THE DROP ON HIM!

LEAVE ME ALONE--I'VE GOT TO HELP RALPHIE!

OKAY, BABE, YOU DON'T TELL ME WHERE THE CANNISTERS ARE AND YOUR BRAINS ARE GOING TO BE LAYING NEXT TO YOUR FRIEND'S GUTS.

TELL ME WHERE THEY ARE, AND MAYBE WE'LL GET YOUR FRIEND SOME HELP.

THEY'RE IN THE CEMETERY IN THREE DIFFERENT MAUSOLEUMS. I DON'T REMEMBER WHERE. I ONLY HID ONE. RALPHIE HID ANOTHER AND JOHNNY THE LAST.

I JUST DON'T REMEMBER.

SHE'S NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO GIVE US ANY MORE, SITTING HERE.

I'LL TAKE HER TO MY BOSS-- HE'S GOT PEOPLE WHO CAN HELP HER REMEMBER THINGS.

I THINK--

--NOT!

THE TRUCE IS OVER.

DEATHWATCH CAN EXTRACT THE INFORMATION STRAIGHT FROM HER MIND. KILL THE KID QUICKLY FOR ME. YOU WILL JOIN HER MOMENTARILY.

LOOKS LIKE OUR DEMON FRIEND HAS OTHER PLANS!

IT'S HIM!

WHAT?

CHUNK

SKRAK

CHUNK

DO NOT BE AFRAID.

ST.JOHN'S HOSPITAL

EMERGENCY

THIS BOY NEEDS HELP. BRING A DOCTOR.

KEEP GOIN' INSIDE.

WHAT THE--?

JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?

NO QUESTIONS! THE BOY NEEDS MEDICAL ATTENTION--

--NOW!

MISTER, YOU SAVED HIS LIFE--

--YOU SAVED BOTH OUR LIVES!

THANKS.

HEY! YOU CAN'T JUST STROLL IN HERE, DROP OFF A BODY AND... ER... WELL I GUESS YOU CAN!

BY DAY'S END, THE CITY IS IN AN UPROAR OVER THE SMALL WAR THAT WAS WAGED IN BROOKLYN THE NIGHT BEFORE.

LOCAL NEWSPAPERS ARE FULL OF REPORTS OF THE DEMONIC GHOST RIDER IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DEATH AND DESTRUCTION.

I KNEW THE FREAK WITH THE FLAMING HEAD WAS BEHIND EVERYTHING ALL ALONG.

HE'S THE SAME ONE WHO HURT YOUR SISTER, DAN--

--AND I'M NOT GOING TO REST UNTIL THIS SO-CALLED GHOST RIDER IS BROUGHT IN.

X-RAY

DO YOU BELIEVE THAT SOME OF THESE PAPERS ARE ACTUALLY CALLING HIM A HERO? IF YOU WANT MY OPINION HE'S A KILLER, BOY. A COLD BLOODED KILLER.

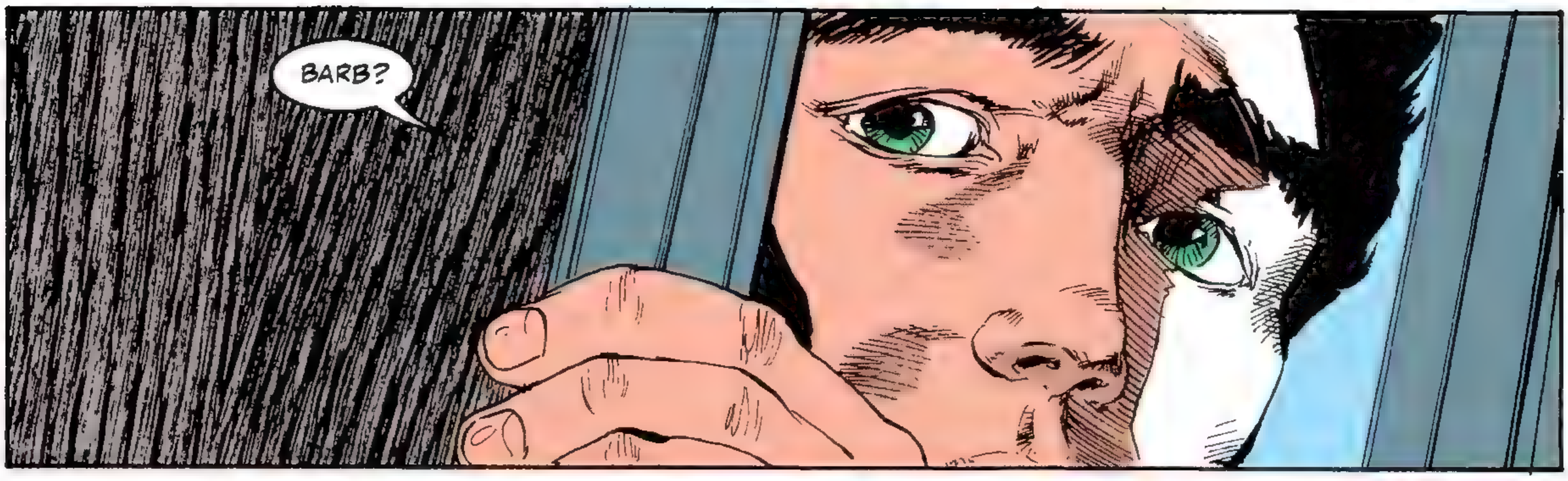
DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT BARB. EVER SINCE HE SHOWED UP AT THE HOSPITAL LAST NIGHT I'VE PUT MEN ON EVERY FLOOR.

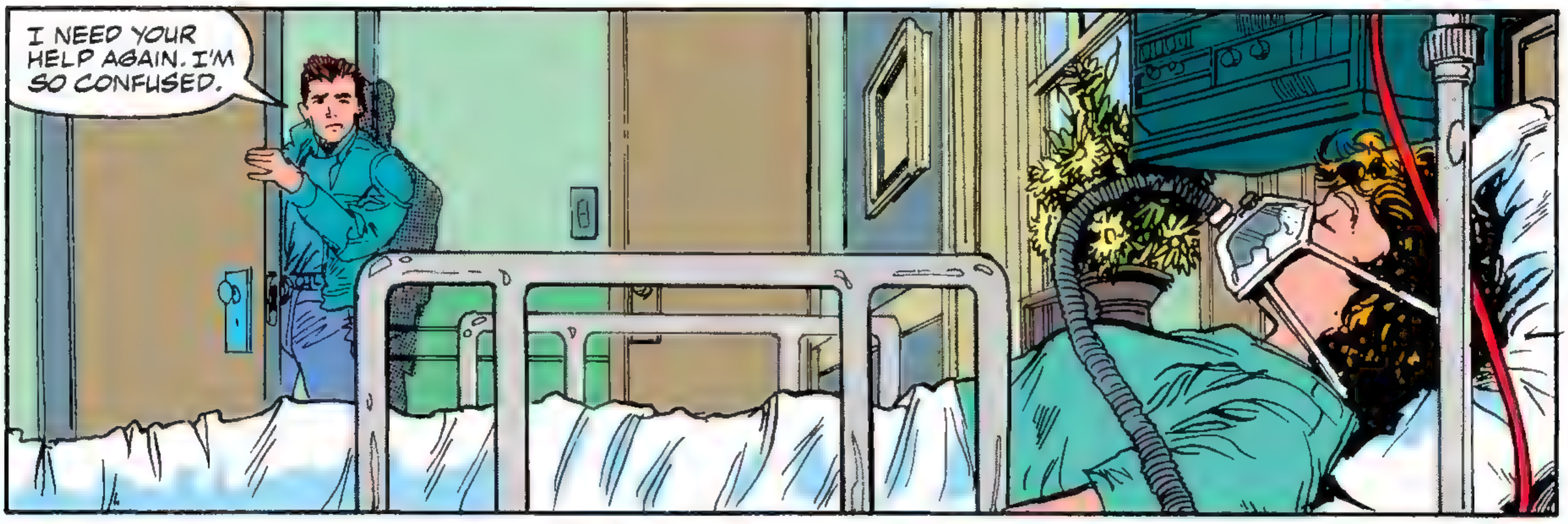
BUT THE PAPERS SAY THAT HE HELPED TWO KIDS-- BROUGHT THEM HERE.

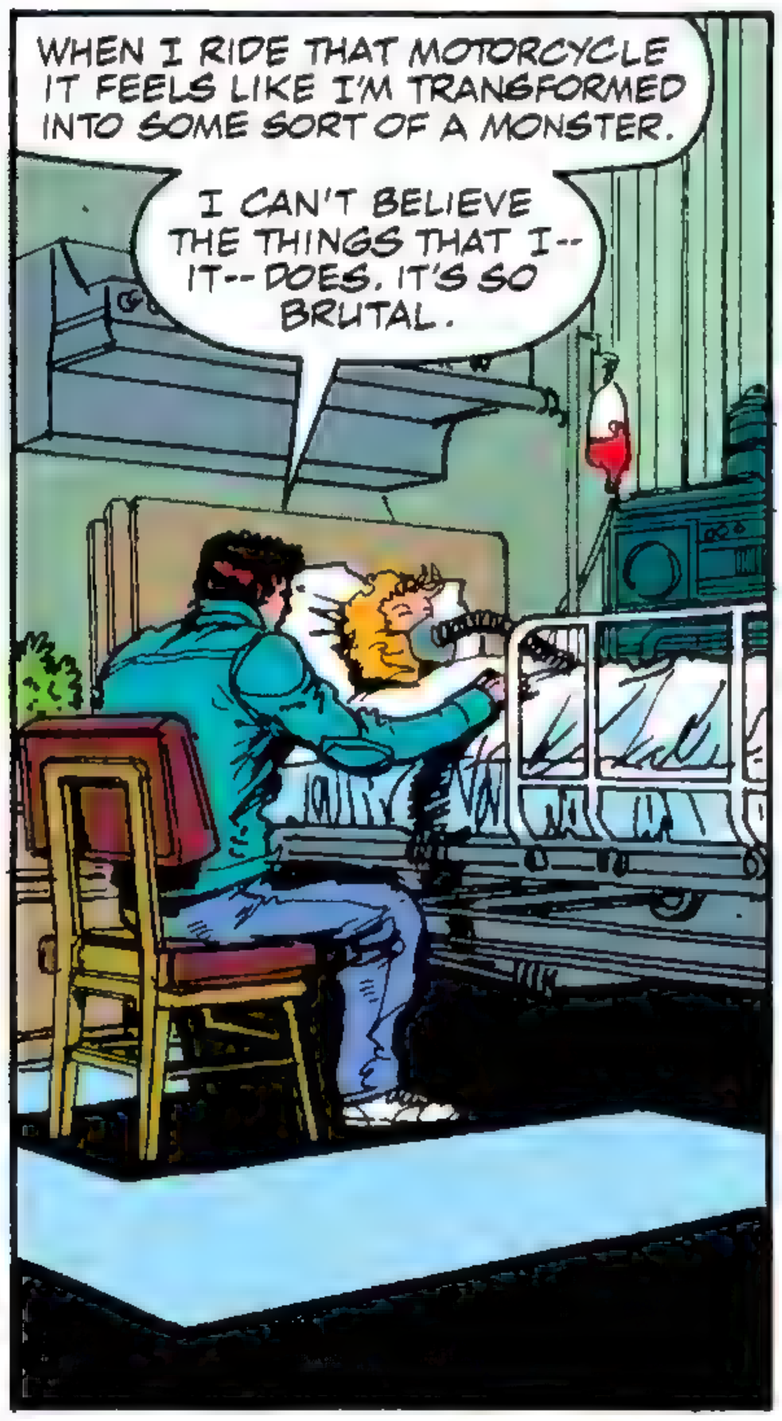
NONSENSE! HE WAS JUST TRYING TO COVER HIS BUTT. ALL HE WANTED TO DO WAS THROW US OFF HIS SCENT AND--

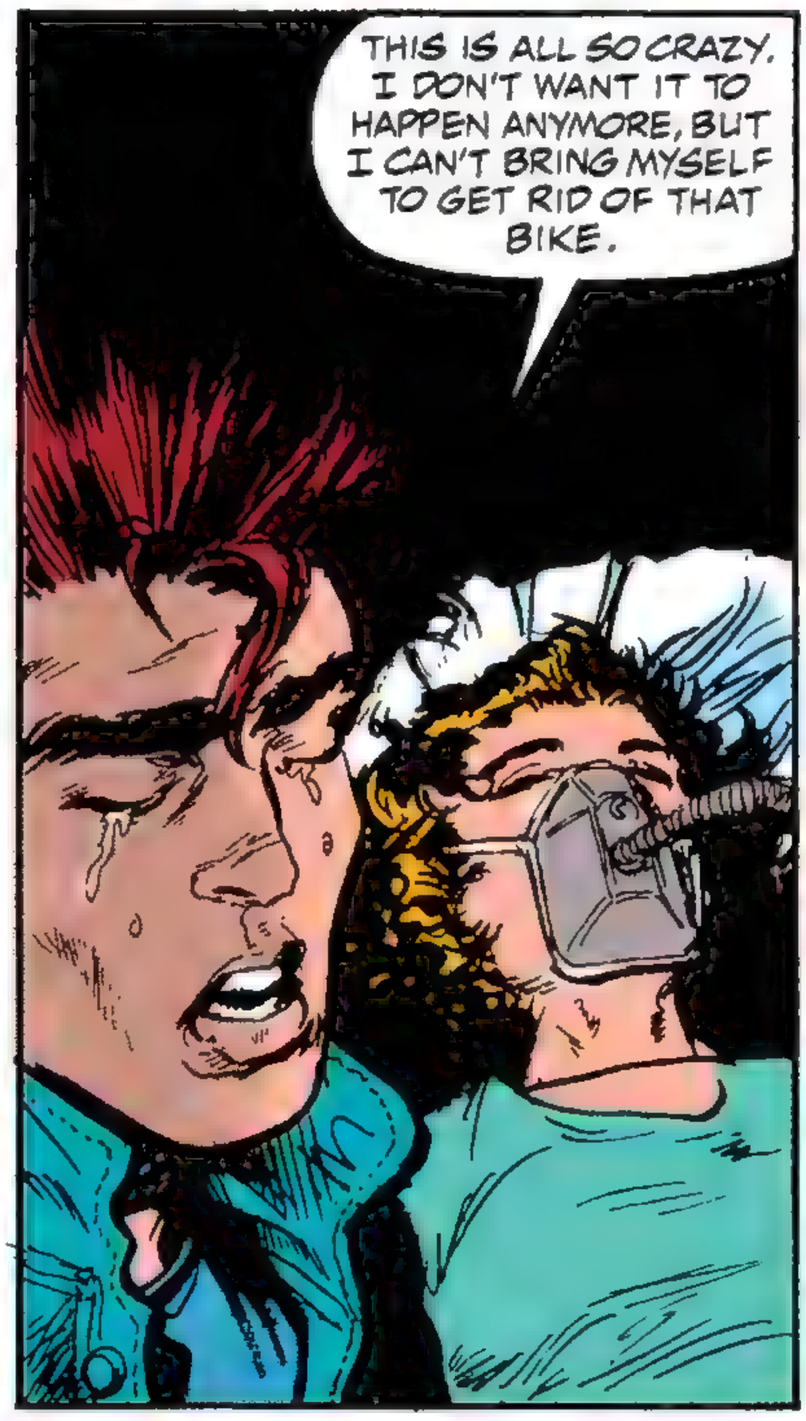
ER--EXCUSE ME, CAPTAIN DOLAN, I WANT TO GO SEE HOW BARB'S DOING.

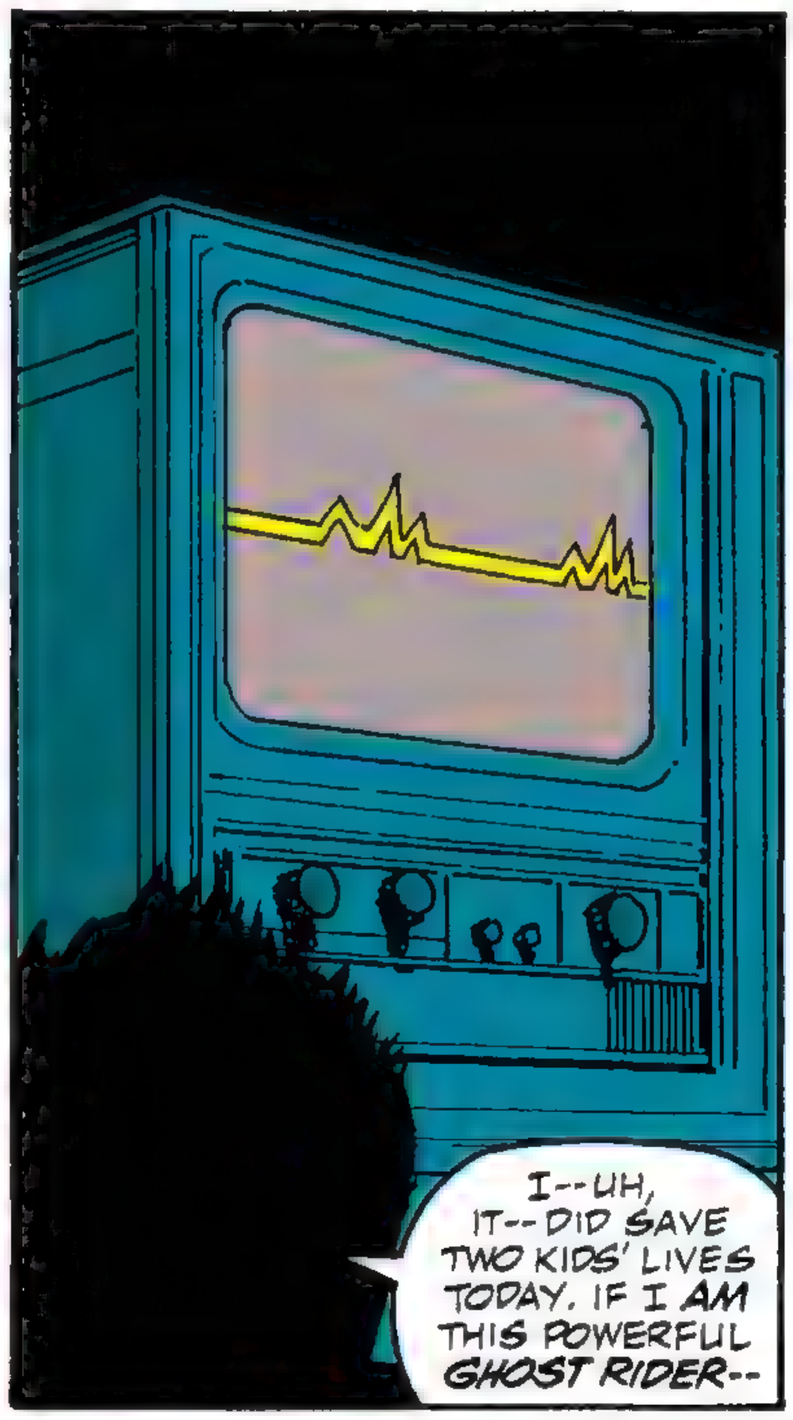
OF COURSE, SON, GO AHEAD.

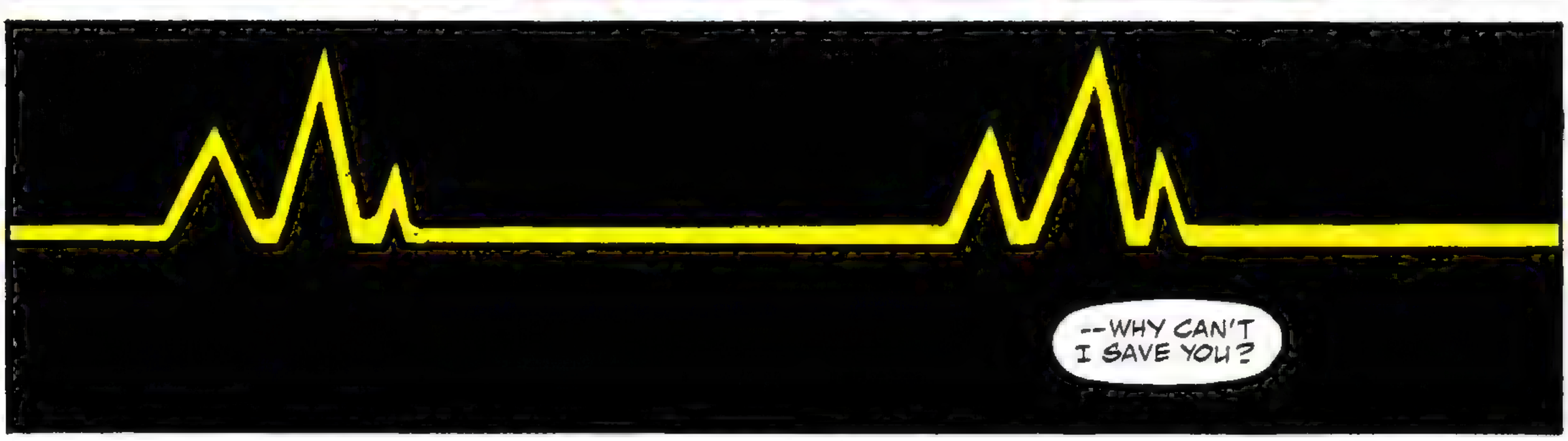

BARB?


I NEED YOUR HELP AGAIN. I'M SO CONFUSED.


WHEN I RIDE THAT MOTORCYCLE IT FEELS LIKE I'M TRANSFORMED INTO SOME SORT OF A MONSTER.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THE THINGS THAT I-- IT-- DOES. IT'S SO BRUTAL.


THIS IS ALL SO CRAZY. I DON'T WANT IT TO HAPPEN ANYMORE, BUT I CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO GET RID OF THAT BIKE.


I--UH, IT-- DID SAVE TWO KIDS' LIVES TODAY. IF I AM THIS POWERFUL GHOST RIDER--


--WHY CAN'T I SAVE YOU?

AT THAT MOMENT...

BRING NO MORE REPORTS OF FAILURE, CHAPMAN!

THOSE CANNISTERS BELONG IN MY HANDS. DO WHATEVER IS NECESSARY TO GET THEM BACK.

MY ENTIRE OPERATION... MY CITY... WILL BE JEOPARDIZED IF THEY FALL INTO THE *WRONG* HANDS--

--GET THEM NOW!

...ALLEGED "CRIMINAL"

AND ELSE-WHERE...

OUR CLIENTS PAY FOR RESULTS.

FIND THE CHILDREN, THIS GHOST RIDER, OR WHOEVER WILL LEAD YOU TO THE CANNISTERS--

--THEN *LOCATE* THE CANNISTERS--

--AND KILL ALL THE WITNESSES!

DAILY BUGLE

ALLEGED "CRIMINAL" GHOST RIDER SAVES CHILD!

TO BE CONTINUED...

MARVEL COMICS

© 1990 MARVEL ENT GROUP, INC.

$1.50 US
$2.00 CAN
2
JUN
CC 01317
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

GHOST RIDER

THE SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE RIDES AGAIN!

JAVIER SALTARES 89

CYPRESS POOL JOKERS

TERRIFYING THINGS, THE THINGS THAT HAUNT YOU AS A CHILD, AREN'T ALWAYS SATISFIED TO STAY WITHIN THE CONFINES OF SHADOWS--

STAN LEE PRESENTS

DO BE AFRAID OF THE DARK!

COME ON-- MOVE IT! THEY'RE ALMOST ON TOP OF US!

HOWARD MACKIE
WRITER
JAVIER SALTARES
PENCILER
MARK TEXEIRA
INKER
MICHAEL HEISLER, LETTERER
GREGORY WRIGHT, COLORIST
BOBBIE CHASE
EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

--ESPECIALLY NOT WHEN THE TERROR FROM THE SHADOWS IS LOOKING FOR YOU.

WE'LL LOSE 'EM IF WE MAKE IT INTO THE PARK. GET UP THE STAIRS AND WE'RE HOME--

SCREE

--FREE!

NO MORE RABBITING, KID! ONE QUESTION AND ONE CHANCE TO ANSWER IT.

WHERE ARE THE CANISTERS?

CANISTERS? WHAT CANISTERS? I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

DON'T SCREW AROUND WITH ME, PUNK!

MY BOSS SAYS THAT SOME SNOT-NOSED KIDS CALLING THEMSELVES THE CYPRESS POOL JOKERS GOT INVOLVED IN ONE OF HIS OPERATIONS LAST WEEK.*

HE SAYS THAT YOU TOOK OFF WITH A SUITCASE BELONGING TO HIM. THE SUITCASE HAD SOME CANISTERS IN IT. HE WANTS THEM BACK--

* LAST ISSUE. --BOBBIE

--AND YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE ME TO THEM RIGHT NOW!

RRMBL

YOU! IN THE BUSHES! WHO YOU PLAYING WITH, MORON?

COME OUT NOW, OR YOU'RE WASTED WHERE YOU STAND!

RRMMBLE

FROM THE SHADOWS SPRINGS FORTH A TERROR OF A DIFFERENT KIND.

REBORN IN BLOOD AND FIRE, HE IS THE SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE. HE IS--

--THE GHOST RIDER!

THAT'S THE GUY WHO TOOK OUT VIC AND HIS MEN LAST WEEK!

NAIL HIM, BOYS!

BLUDDA

BLUD

BRRRP

HMPH! HE WASN'T SO TOUGH. VIC'S MEN MUSTA BEEN A BUNCH OF WIMPS!

THESE KIDS AIN'T GONNA HELP US, ELDON! LET'S JUST SMOKE 'EM AND--!

AACK!

NO! WAIT! PLEASE!

PATIENCE IS NOT A CHARACTERISTIC OF THE GHOST RIDER.

SWUMP

NOR IS MERCY.

HE DID CRAIG! KILL HIM! KILL THEM ALL!

MOST MEN WOULD MELT WITH FEAR IF ATTACKED BY FOUR HEAVILY ARMED KILLERS--

TCHINK

--BUT THE GHOST RIDER IS NOT A MAN, NOR IS HE CAPABLE OF EXPERIENCING FEAR!

PAIN IS INFLICTED QUICKLY AND HARSHLY UPON THESE WHO WOULD HARM INNOCENT CHILDREN.

NORMALLY HE WOULD TAKE TIME TO SEE THAT EACH MAN EXPERIENCES PAIN EQUAL TO HIS PAST OFFENSES--

--BUT NOT TONIGHT.

TONIGHT HE WANTS ANSWERS.

AND HE KNOWS HOW TO GET THEM.

THWOONK

UNGPH!

VROOOOM

NO! NO! DON'T!

PLEEEEEASE--!

ELDON'S SCREAMS ARE AS EFFECTIVE AS HIS BULLETS WERE EARLIER.

NO, NO, NO, NO...!

YOU WILL NOW TELL ME WHY YOU WANTED TO HURT THOSE CHILDREN, AND FOR WHOM YOU WORK.

P-PLEASE DON'T DROP ME...

TALK.

I WASN'T GONNA HURT THEM--REALLY! JUST ROUGH THEM UP. GET SOME INFORMATION.

THE WORD ON THE STREET IS THESE KIDS HAVE CANISTERS OR SOMETHING THAT THE KINGPIN WANTS.

I JUST WANTED TO MAKE THE BIG SCORE AND GET IN GOOD WITH HIM! I'M GONNA BE SICK.

WHAT ARE IN THESE CANISTERS THAT MAKES THEM SO VALUABLE?

I DON'T KNOW --I SWEAR I DON'T KNOW!

YET YOU ENDANGER THE LIVES OF INNOCENT CHILDREN TO FIND THEM.

THIS WILL NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN.

ELDON LAMBERT PEERS INTO EYES WHICH REFLECT EVERY TRANSGRESSION FROM HIS PAST--

--HE EXPERIENCES ALL THE PAIN THAT HE HAS INFLICTED ON OTHERS.

HIS MIND BURNS WITH THE MENTAL ANGUISH OF HIS VICTIMS.

ELDON WISHES THAT THE GHOST RIDER HAD DROPPED HIM AND ALLOWED HIM TO ESCAPE THIS MISERY.

N-NO, NO, NO...

IT WAS HIM! I KNEW IT.

THE GUY FROM THE CEMETERY LAST WEEK. THE ONE THE PAPERS ARE CALLING THE GHOST RIDER.

HE SAVED PAULIE AND RALPHIE WHEN THOSE HEAVY HITTERS BLASTED JAMAICA AVENUE APART TRYING TO GET THOSE STUPID CANISTERS.

MAN, HE'S HOT!

CYPRESS HILLS, NEW YORK...

CEMETERIES ARE THE LANDSCAPES ON WHICH MANY PEOPLE'S NIGHTMARES ARE FORMED.

THESE PEOPLE EMERGE FROM THEIR TERROR INTO THE LIGHT AND COMFORT OF THEIR BEDROOMS.

DAN KETCH ONCE AGAIN EMERGES FROM HIS LIVING NIGHTMARE INTO THE DARKNESS OF HIS MEMORIES--

--INTO THE DARKNESS OF REALITY.

JAMAICA ESTATES...

THE HOME OF DETECTIVE FRANK LORRETTI, A TWELVE YEAR, HIGHLY DECORATED VETERAN OF THE NYPD.

FOR TWELVE YEARS HE PERFORMED HAZARDOUS DUTY WITHOUT A THOUGHT FOR HIS OWN SAFETY.

HIS SANCTUARY AND SANITY REST IN THE SECURITY OF THE HOME THAT HE AND HIS WIFE ALICIA HAVE MADE FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR SON ANTHONY.

SANITY HAS NO PLACE IN THE DARKNESS.

POLICE ARE STILL SEARCHING FOR THE MOTORCYCLE-RIDING GHOST RIDER WHO THEY BELIEVE IS BEHIND THE RECENT GANG-LAND KILLINGS IN THE CYPRESS HILLS SECTION OF BROOKLYN.

WHEN LAST SEEN THIS GHOST RIDER WAS--

FZZOOT

@%#☆ TV! KNEW I SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN A SONY!

HUH? THE LIGHTS ARE OUT, TOO?

INSTINCT HONED ON THE STREETS TAKES OVER.

HE SENSES THE PRESENCE OF AN INTRUDER LURKING IN THE DARKNESS.

POLICEMEN AREN'T AFRAID OF THE DARK. DETECTIVE LORRETTI SHOULD BE.

OKAY, DIRTBAG, I KNOW YOU'RE OUT HERE. MAYBE I CAN'T SEE YOU, BUT I CAN FEEL YOU.

HUH?

WHAT THE--? MY GUN!

THAT LITTLE MOVE LET ME KNOW EXACTLY WHERE YOU ARE, MAGGOT!

WHAK

KRAK

GEEZ! MY HAND!

WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME?

I DESIRE INFORMATION, DETECTIVE.

INFORMATION I WILL RECEIVE *IMMEDIATELY* OR *YOU* WILL WATCH YOUR WIFE AND SON *DIE!*

NO! NOT MY FAMILY. LEAVE THEM OUT OF THIS. I'LL TELL YOU *WHATEVER* YOU WANT TO HEAR!

OF *COURSE* YOU WILL, DETECTIVE, OF COURSE YOU WILL.

FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER...

THANK YOU, DETECTIVE. YOU'VE BEEN MOST COOPERATIVE.

NOW IF YOU DON'T MIND I'M GOING TO BORROW YOUR NOTEBOOK.

I DIDN'T THINK YOU WOULD.

LEFFERTS CANISTERS, Cypress Pool jokers -- 39 Park lane Ralph D'AMATO 76th St.

PERFECT.

PLEASE, MRS. LORRETTI, DON'T GET UP. I CAN SHOW MYSELF OUT!

SOMETIMES I DO SO LOVE MY WORK!

AND I'M SO GOOD AT IT TOO!

DETECTIVE LORRETTI'S CONFESSION AND HIS NOTEBOOK SHOULD LEAD US TO THE CANISTERS IN SHORT TIME.

"THE LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL IS IN SIGHT."

I DESPISE THAT EXPRESSION.

LATER THAT DAY...

OOH! WHAT A NIGHT!

HAVEN'T BEEN SLEEPING TOO WELL SINCE THE GHOST RIDER CAME INTO MY LIFE.

BEEN LUCKY TO GET ANY SLEEP AT ALL.

I'VE GOT TO GET MORE CONTROL OVER--!

KLINK

SOMEONE IN THE ROOM--IN THE DARKNESS!

COULD BE ONE OF KINGPIN'S HIRED KILLERS, OR ONE OF THOSE ASSASSINS FROM THE CEMETERY WHO HURT BARB.

HUGPH!

TIME TO GET UP, SLEEPY HEAD.

DANIEL, I DIDN'T HEAR YOU COME HOME LAST NIGHT--

--I WISH YOU WOULDN'T STAY OUT SO LATE.

I WORRY SO AFTER WHAT HAPPENED TO BARBARA ... IF ANYTHING WERE TO HAPPEN TO YOU... I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'D DO.

MOM.

I'M SORRY, SON, I DON'T MEAN TO UPSET YOU. IT'S JUST THE STRAIN OF YOUR SISTER BEING IN A COMA. THE DOCTORS HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GIVE US ANY ENCOURAGEMENT. SOMETIMES I JUST CAN'T...

EVERYTHING'S GOING TO WORK OUT, MOM. I'M SURE OF IT!

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

STACY! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE HERE.

YOUR MOM SAID YOU'D BE UP SOON--

--I THOUGHT I'D SURPRISE YOU.

I HAVEN'T SEEN TOO MUCH OF YOU LATELY--

--NOT SINCE THE... NOT SINCE BARB GOT HURT.

DAILY BUGLE

GHOST RIDER TERROR SPREADS!

NO!

DAN?!

I'M SORRY, STACY. IT'S JUST THAT ALL THIS VIOLENCE... I'VE GOT TO STOP IT!

HOW CAN YOU?

YOU CAN NO MORE STOP THIS GHOST RIDER THING THAN YOU COULD HAVE PREVENTED BARB'S INJURY.

YOU CAN'T BLAME YOURSELF FOR EVERYTHING.

ALL YOU CAN DO IS PRAY THAT BARB GETS WELL AND THAT MY FATHER CAN CAPTURE THIS GHOST RIDER BEFORE HE HURTS SOMEONE ELSE.

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND-- I CA--I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!

DUSK...

THE OFFICES OF INTERNATIONAL CONTRACTORS UNLIMITED--

--AN ORGANIZATION OVERSEEN BY A MAN WHO CALLS HIMSELF--

--DEATHWATCH.

SIR, SECURITY REPORTS AN AUTHORIZED VISITOR APPROACHING YOUR OFFICE IN YOUR PRIVATE ELEVATOR.

BLACKOUT.

INFRARED ENGAGED

ONCE AGAIN MY APOLOGIES FOR MY LIGHT-DAMPENING ABILITIES--

--BUT IT REALLY IS A MATTER OF SELF-PRESERVATION.

ENOUGH ABOUT YOUR SKIN CONDITION, BLACKOUT. THE CANISTERS. HAVE YOU LOCATED THEM?

NO, BUT I'M WELL ON MY WAY.

LAST NIGHT I CALLED UPON A CERTAIN DETECTIVE FRANK LORRETTI.

HE WAS QUITE HELPFUL. YOU SEE, HE WAS PART OF THE INVESTIGATING TEAM AT THE JUNKYARD INCIDENT AND--

ENOUGH.

YOU KNOW THE *PROCEDURE.*

BUT OF COURSE.

HAD MY MEN BROUGHT ANY *ONE* OF THE CHILDREN PRESENT AT THE JUNKYARD THAT NIGHT TO ME LAST WEEK AS I REQUESTED--

--*NONE* OF THIS WOULD BE NECESSARY.

BUT I AM ENJOYING MYSELF SO.

YES. LET'S SEE JUST HOW MUCH.

DEATHWATCH'S FINGERS PSYCHICALLY ENTER BLACKOUT'S BRAIN--

--STROKING SYNAPSES, ABSORBING THE SHORT-TERM MEMORIES--

--HE WITNESSES DEATH--

--HE EXPERIENCES ECSTASY.

THANK YOU. ONCE AGAIN YOU'VE PROVIDED ME WITH AN *EXQUISITE* KILL.

THOUGH IT STILL PUZZLES ME THAT YOU ARE ONE OF THE FEW WHO UNDERGO MY LITTLE BRAIN SCAN PAINLESSLY.

JUST LUCKY I GUESS.

I GUESS. NOW PLEASE *FIND* THE LAST CANISTER. I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE TWO IN *POLICE CUSTODY.*

ASIDE FROM HIS DEATH, THE GOOD DETECTIVE PROVIDED ME WITH THE MEANS TO TRACK DOWN THOSE PRESENT AT THE JUNKYARD.

PERHAPS I CAN PERSUADE THEM TO COOPERATE WITH US.

SEE THAT YOU DO. OUR *CLIENTS* ARE GETTING QUITE ANXIOUS FOR THE DELIVERY OF THOSE CANISTERS.

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER, THAT SAME EVENING...

HI, BARB.

BOY, SIS, SOME PEOPLE'LL DO ANYTHING TO GET OUT OF BROOKLYN INTO MANHATTAN --

ST. LUKES HOSPITAL

--EVEN GO INTO A COMA AND HAVE TO GET TRANSFERRED TO ONE OF THE TOP MEDICAL CENTERS IN THE CITY. BROOKLYN HOSPITALS JUST AREN'T GOOD ENOUGH FOR MY SISTER!

GEEZ, BARB, GOOD THING MOM ISN'T AROUND TO HEAR ME KIDDING WITH YOU LIKE THIS. YOU KNOW HOW SUPERSTITIOUS SHE IS.

THE DOCTORS SAY IT'S GOOD THERAPY TO TALK TO YOU.

THE QUESTION IS WHETHER IT'S THERAPY FOR YOU OR ME.

I STILL NEED TO COME TO MY BIG SISTER WITH MY PROBLEMS--

--AND THIS GHOST RIDER THING IS THE BIGGEST PROBLEM I'VE EVER COME ACROSS.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I'M TRANSFORMED INTO THAT THING. IT FEELS AS THOUGH I FALL INTO A DARK PLACE INSIDE MYSELF.

AND THE ENTIRE TIME THAT I'M THE GHOST RIDER I STAY IN THAT DARK PLACE.

YOU REMEMBER HOW, WHEN WE WERE LITTLE, I WAS AFRAID OF THE DARK, BARB?

WELL, SOMETIMES I'M STILL AFRAID.

ONLY NOW THE DARK PLACES ARE IN ME--

--AND YOU'RE NOT HERE TO TURN ON THE LIGHTS.

BACK IN CYPRESS HILLS, BROOKLYN...

MIDNIGHT.

DARK.

AND IT'S ABOUT TO BECOME DARKER STILL.

THIS IS THE LIFE!

IN SOME WAYS, GETTIN' STABBED LAST WEEK WAS ONE OF THE BEST THINGS THAT EVER HAPPENED TO ME. IT WASN'T AS SERIOUS AS IT LOOKED, OR FELT--

--AND I GET TO STAY HOME FROM SCHOOL AND HAVE MY PARENTS SPOIL ME ROTTEN!

MAN, THIS NINTENDO IS HOT!

FRIZZT

WHAT THE--?

LIGHTS ARE OUT IN THE WHOLE HOUSE!

DAD! MOM!

HOW COME THEY DON'T ANSWER?

THE MATCH WON'T LIGHT.

SCRITCH

fWish

GEEZ!

BURNT MY HAND--

--BUT IT WASN'T LIT!

THIS IS TOO WEIRD!

AAAIEE!

WHAT WAS *THAT?*

MOM? DAD?

WHERE ARE THEY?

SOMETHIN' AIN'T RIGHT. IT'S *TOO* DARK --IT AIN'T *NATURAL!*

I GOTTA GET OUT AND GET SOME HELP.

I AIN'T AFRAID OF THE DARK...

I AIN'T AFRAID OF THE DARK...

I AIN'T...

OH, BUT YOU *SHOULD* BE, DEAR BOY!

WHAAAA--?

SHUSH, NOW. OR YOU'LL WAKE YOUR PARENTS.

W-WHO ARE YOU? WHERE ARE MY MOTHER AND FATHER?

I'LL BE ASKING THE QUESTIONS, BOY.

BE QUICK AND TELL ME WHAT BECAME OF THE CANISTERS YOU AND YOUR STREET URCHIN FRIENDS STOLE LAST WEEK--

--AND I'LL SEE THAT YOU JOIN YOUR PARENTS IMMEDIATELY.

NO! I WANT MY PARENTS NOW!

GO, THEN. JOIN THEM.

DAD! HELP ME! PLEASE!

DAD--!

NO!!!

COME, BOY, JUST ANSWER MY QUESTIONS.

NO! GET AWAY FROM ME--UGPH!

CRASH

NOOOO!

BUT OFTEN IN THE DARKEST NIGHT THERE EXISTS A LIGHT WHICH CANNOT BE EXTINGUISHED.

WHAT? YOU AGAIN?!

RALPHIE PLUNGES THROUGH THE DARKNESS TOWARD HIS DEATH.

THANK YOU FOR SAVING THE CHILD FOR *ME.*

I WAS NOT QUITE *FINISHED* WITH MY *INTERROGATION.*

PLEASE FORGIVE MY MANNERS, BUT--

--NOW YOU MUST *DIE!*

HULPH!

NO--

--I THINK NOT.

FWOMP

YOU HAVE BEEN EASY TO TRACK WITH THE STENCH OF INNOCENT BLOOD ABOUT YOU, FIEND.

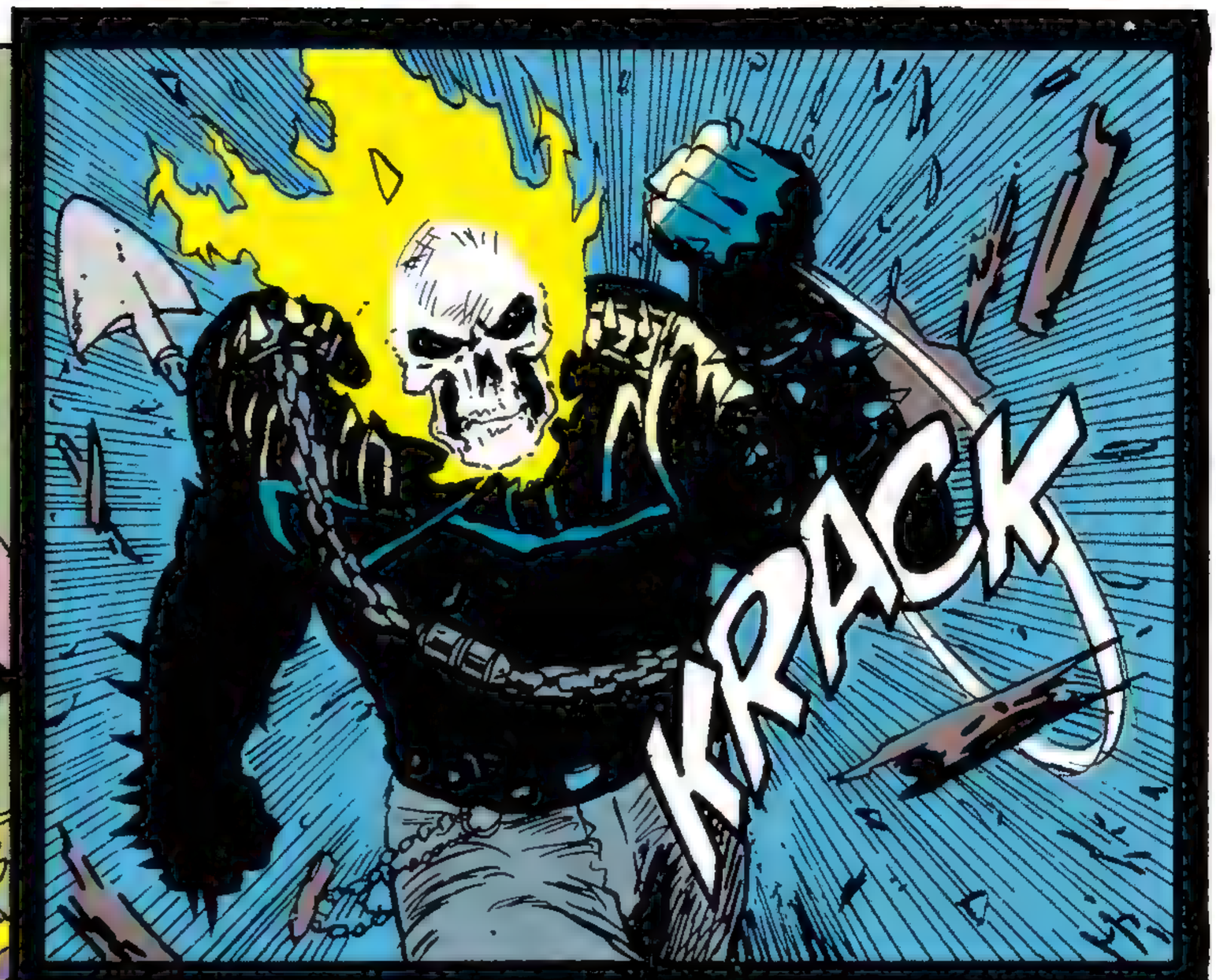
SO MANY *DIE* FOR THESE CANISTERS. WHY?

CANISTERS?

I HAVE NO *IDEA* WHAT YOU'RE BABBLING ABOUT.

AND I'VE NO DESIRE TO HUMOR YOU ANY LONGER.

GOODBYE, FOOL!



WHAT? HOW?

INDEED YOU ARE STRONG, MY FRIEND!

BUT STRENGTH--

--CAN EASILY BE OVERCOME WITH SPEED AND LEVERAGE!

PUTTING AN END TO YOUR INFERNAL INTERFERENCE.

FWAK

KEEP AWAY!

I ASSURE YOU, DEAR CHILD, THIS IS STRICTLY BUSINESS--

--WITH MAYBE A SMIDGEON OF PLEASURE THROWN IN!

NOW BACK TO BUSINESS.

I DON'T RECOMMEND IT.

YOU ARE PERSISTENT! AND A BIT OUT OF MY CLASS--IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE!

OH WELL, NEXT TIME...

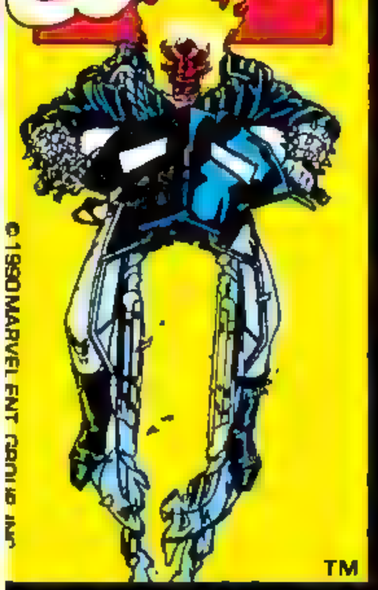
GET HIM! HE'S GETTIN' AWAY! HE KILLED MY PARENTS! GET HIM!

NO, HE IS GONE.

BUT NEXT TIME...

NEXT--THE CONCLUSION!

MARVEL® COMICS



©1990 MARVEL ENT GROUP INC

TM

$1.50 US
$2.00 CAN
3
JULY
01317

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

GHOST RIDER®

VERSUS THE NECROTIC BLACKOUT THE NIHILISTIC DEATHWATCH AND THE NEFARIOUS KINGPIN!™

BROOKLYN...

75TH PRECINCT POLICE

WHERE COULD ANYONE BE SAFER THAN WITHIN THE SECURED WALLS OF A POLICE STATION?

75TH PRECINCT

DOZENS OF THE ARMED AND WELL TRAINED OF NEW YORK'S FINEST ARE ON DUTY AT ALL TIMES.

NO ONE WOULD DARE TO LAUNCH AN ASSAULT ON A POLICE STATION.

NO ONE?

C'MON, MS. STRATTON-- PAULIE-- YOU'VE GOT TO REMEMBER!

TWO OF THE THREE CANISTERS YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS WERE STUPID ENOUGH TO WALK OFF WITH HAVE BEEN LOCATED BY OUR PEOPLE IN THE CEMETERY.

WHERE DID YOU HIDE THE LAST ONE?

HONEST, DETECTIVE McDERMOTT, I CAN'T REMEMBER!

WELL, YOU BETTER TRY, GIRL--

--'CAUSE TILL YOU DO, THE ONLY PLACE YOU'RE SAFE IS RIGHT HERE!

OUT ON THE STREETS YOU AND THE REST OF YOUR CYPRESS POOL JOKERS ARE IN DEEP TROUBLE!

YOU DON'T THINK I *KNOW* THAT? YOU DON'T THINK I'VE BEEN *TRYIN'* TO REMEMBER WHERE WE HID THOSE CANISTERS?

EVER SINCE I RIPPED THEM OFF FROM THOSE KILLERS IN THE *JUNKYARD,** THINGS HAVE GOTTEN ALL SCREWED UP!

FIRST *RALPHIE* GETS HURT AND THEN... THEN...HIS PARENTS *MURDERED*...

I KNOW, KID! YOU'RE IN WAY OVER YOUR HEAD. THIS THING'S WAY OUT OF *CONTROL* AND WE DON'T EVEN KNOW *WHY* YET!

*ISSUE #1.--BOBBIE

ONE OF MY MEN AND HIS FAMILY WERE KILLED, TOO-- AND I THINK IT'S ALL TIED TO WHATEVER IS IN THOSE BLASTED CANISTERS.

TOMORROW MORNING THE LAB BOYS ARE PICKIN' UP THE TWO THAT WE'VE GOT IN CUSTODY NOW.

I'LL BE GLAD TO HAVE THEM OUT OF HERE. BUT I *STILL* NEED TO FIND THE LAST ONE!

YOU'VE GOT TO TRY AND REMEM--

WHAT THE HECK'S WRONG WITH THE *LIGHTS?*

BTOOM

WHAT'S GOING ON?

AIEE

HUH? NO! NO!

KRAK

WHEN INNOCENT BLOOD IS SPILLED, A SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE IS BORN,
AND DANNY KETCH FINDS HIMSELF
TRANSFORMED INTO THE

GHOST RIDER™

DEATHWATCH

HOWARD MACKIE WRITER
JAVIER SALTARES PENCILER
MARK TEXEIRA INKER
MICHAEL HEISLER LETTERER
GREGORY WRIGHT COLORIST
BOBBIE CHASE EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

HIS DYING THOUGHTS REVEALED NOTHING, *BLACKOUT.*

BUT I'M *CERTAIN* THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO HELP THE YOUNG LADY REMEMBER THE LOCATION OF THE FINAL CANISTER. AREN'T YOU?

QUITE CERTAIN, *DEATHWATCH, QUITE* CERTAIN!

THE FOLLOWING MORNING, AT NEW YORK UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER...

NO SMOKING

HOSPITAL

YOU'RE DYING, BARB!

YOUR LIFE IS SLIPPING AWAY AND YOU'RE NOT EVEN TRYING TO FIGHT!

C'MON, SIS, YOU WERE ALWAYS THE FIGHTER-- SO FIGHT!

I FEEL SO HELPLESS. ALL I DO IS WATCH.

PLEASE FIGHT.

FHOMP

I WANT ONE MAN INSIDE AND AT LEAST ONE OUTSIDE THE ROOM AT ALL TIMES!

YES, SIR!

CAPTAIN DOLAN, WHAT'S GOING ON? WHAT IS ALL THIS?

PROTECTION.

PROTECTION?

FROM WHAT? FROM WHO? WHAT'S GOING ON?

YOUR SISTER MAY BE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN IDENTIFY THE KILLER FROM THE JUNKYARD INCIDENT. UNTIL SHE COMES OUT OF HER COMA AND WE CAN ASCERTAIN WHAT SHE KNOWS, I WANT HER UNDER TWENTY-FOUR-HOUR GUARD--

--TOO MANY LIVES HAVE BEEN LOST ALREADY!

MORE?

LAST NIGHT. TEN POLICE OFFICERS WERE KILLED AND DOZENS MORE INJURED WHEN WHOEVER IS BEHIND THIS RAIDED THE SEVENTY-FIFTH, STOLE THE RECOVERED CANISTERS, AND KIDNAPPED THE STRATTON GIRL.

WHAT CAN I DO?!

NOTHING, BOY. YOU'VE ALREADY TOLD US YOU DIDN'T SEE ANY FACES AT THE JUNKYARD OR THE CEMETERY--

--SO JUST GO HOME AND SIT TIGHT. I'VE GOT A UNIT GUARDING YOUR HOUSE.

NO!

I WON'T SIT BY AND WATCH MORE PEOPLE GET KILLED!

EXIT

THE CYPRESS HILLS CEMETERY...

ALL IS QUIET AND CALM.

ALL IS PEACEFUL.

WE SHOULD KILL HER!

IN LOVING MEMORY

ALL THE WEIRD STUFF THAT'S COMING DOWN ON US IS *PAULIE'S* FAULT!

THE CYPRESS POOL JOKERS SHOULD GET REAL USED TO HANGIN' OUT IN THESE MAUSOLEUMS --

--'CAUSE WITH ALL THE HEAVY HITTERS AFTER US WE'RE GONNA BE HERE *PERMANENT.*

ALL 'CAUSE PAULIE HAD TO STEAL THOSE STUPID CANISTERS WHEN WE STUMBLED ONTO THE MOB HIT IN OLD MAN GALLAGHER'S JUNK YARD.

CYPRESS POOL JOKERS

IT AIN'T ALL HER FAULT, J.D., WE WERE ALL IN ON IT.

BESIDES, IT'S PAULIE THAT BROUGHT THAT GHOST RIDER GUY AROUND TO SAVE OUR BUTTS!

OUR BUTTS WOULDN'T'VE NEEDED SAVIN' IN THE FIRST PLACE IF IT WASN'T FOR HER.

I SAY WE KICK HER OUT OF THE GANG FOR GOOD!

OHMANOHMANOHMAN!

ANGEL! CHILL OUT!

IT'S BAD...THE SEVENTY-FIFTH..., EVERYONE TRASHED ...COPS DEAD ALL OVER THE PLACE...

WHAT ARE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT?

THEY SNATCHED PAULIE FROM THE COPS AND KILLED A BUNCH OF THE COPS IN THE STATION.

THEY WHAT? WHO?

WE GOTTA HELP HER!

YEAH! PAULIE'S ONE OF US. WE GOTTA FIND HER!

FRAKKK

NO NEED TO BOTHER LOOKING FOR YOUR FRIEND, CHILDREN.

MIDTOWN MANHATTAN...

THE FISK BUILDING.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE LEGAL AND CRIMINAL OPERATIONS OF THE KINGPIN.

THAT IS **NOT** WHAT I WANTED TO HEAR.

THIS DEATHWATCH IS ONE STEP **AHEAD** OF ME AT EVERY TURN.

WHY DIDN'T **OUR** PEOPLE IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT THE RECOVERY OF THE CANISTERS?

I DON'T KNOW, SIR.

YOU **DON'T**? BUT I PAY YOU **TO** KNOW.

NOW THIS COSTUMED MERCENARY HAS THAT WHICH BELONGS TO **ME.**

DOES HE EXPECT ME TO STAND BY AND WATCH AS HE DESTROYS **MY CITY?**

I DON'T--

SILENCE.

SWAM

CONTACT THE **ARRANGER.** I WANT EVERY AVAILABLE MAN ARMED AND IN BROOKLYN WITHIN THE HOUR.

SEE TO IT PERSONALLY THAT ALL THE CANISTERS ARE RETURNED TO ME.

ME, SIR--?

YES, AND SEE TO IT THAT THE CHILD IS RELEASED.

THE GIRL? WHY WOULD YOU WANT HER RELEASED?

SHE CAN IDENTIFY DEATHWATCH.

AND I WANT TO TAKE CARE OF HIM **MYSELF.**

AT THE CEMETERY...

I KNEW I'D FIND THEM HERE--

--BUT NOW WHAT DO I DO?

IF I TRY AND HELP, EVEN AS GHOST RIDER, ONE OF THE KIDS MAY GET HURT.

THE MISSING CANISTER IS NOT INSIDE, DEATHWATCH.

YOUNG LADY, I'VE BEEN **GREATLY** INCONVENIENCED BY YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS LATELY, AND I'M RUNNING OUT OF PATIENCE.

WHERE IS THE LAST CANISTER?

I DON'T REMEMBER! I **SWEAR** I DON'T.

WE HID THEM SO FAST THEY COULD BE ***ANYWHERE!***

TOO BAD, PERHAPS WE CAN JOG YOUR MEMORY.

BLACKOUT, *INTERROGATE* ONE OF HER PLAYMATES.

IT WILL BE MY PLEASURE, SIR.

OH, BY THE WAY, YOU MAY *KILL* HIM.

NO! ANGEL!

NO!

I'VE GOT TO *DO* SOMETHING!

YOUR FRIEND DIED BECAUSE OF YOUR *MEMORY LAPSE.*

WHO WILL BE NEXT?

I CAN'T JUST STAND BY AND WATCH HIM KILL THEM ALL. IF I EVER NEEDED THE MOTOR-CYCLE TO DO ITS THING -- I NEED IT *NOW!*

YES!

ONE BY ONE YOUR FRIENDS *WILL* DIE, GIRL, UNTIL I HAVE THE LAST CANISTER. MY ORGANIZATIONS REPUTATION DEPENDS ON IT.

I HAVE BEEN PAID TO OBTAIN ALL THREE CANISTERS AND RELEASE THE CONTENTS ON THIS FAIR CITY.

THE *MUTATED BIOTOXIN* THAT WILL RESULT FROM THE COMBINATION IS *QUITE* DEADLY.

"HALF OF THE POPULATION OF THE TRI-STATE AREA WILL DIE *IMMEDIATELY*-- THE *LUCKY ONES*.

"THE REST WILL DIE A *SLOW* AND *TORTUROUS* DEATH. DRIVEN *MAD* BY THE TOXIN *EATING AWAY* AT THEIR BRAINS AND THEIR BODIES.

"THE ORGANIZATION EMPLOYING ME FOR *THIS* JOB INFORMS ME THAT THE TOXIN WILL *SPREAD* THROUGH THE COUNTRY LIKE A *PLAGUE*.

AND FOR ONE WITH MY *SENSITIVITY* TO DEATH, THAT WILL BE *ECSTASY*.

AND TODAY I WILL RECEIVE A *VERY* LARGE FEE FOR SIMPLY *OBTAINING* AND *RELEASING* THE CONTENTS OF THE CANISTERS, WHETHER THEY LIVE UP TO THE *EXPECTATIONS* OF MY EMPLOYERS OR NOT.

NOT *TODAY*, SIR!

WHO *DARES*?

I REALLY MUST *INSIST* THAT YOU RELEASE THE GIRL AND TURN THE CANISTERS OVER TO ME.

OH, *REALLY?*

YES, *SIR.*

SNAP

WHAT?

MY EMPLOYER WAS REALLY QUITE INSISTENT THAT I RETURN *WITH* THE CANISTERS.

KLIK

CLIK

KLIK

CLIK

CLIK

I DO ASSURE YOU THAT YOU ARE QUITE *OUTFLANKED* AND *OUTNUMBERED*. SO IF YOU WILL BE SO *KIND*...

OF COURSE.

BLACKOUT, PLEASE GIVE THE GENTLEMAN THE CANISTERS.

DO *WHAT?* ARE YOU *MAD?*

DO NOT *PRESUME* TO QUESTION *ME.*

WE ARE *QUITE* OUTGUNNED AS EVEN *YOU* CAN SEE.

MY PLEASURE COMES FROM EXPERIENCING THE DEATH OF *OTHERS*--

--I AM NOT QUITE READY TO PARTAKE OF THAT EXPERI-ENCE FROM THE OTHER SIDE.

I WILL LEAVE YOU NOW, SIR, PLEASE TELL YOUR EMPLOYER THAT I LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING HIM ***FACE TO FACE*** SOME DAY.

ADIEU.

NOW, SIR, THE ***CANISTERS,*** IF YOU PLEASE?

THE *FOOL...* HOW COULD HE?

SIR? CAN YOU HEAR ME? THE CANISTERS!

YES, THE CANISTERS.

SWISH

GURK--!

DEATHWATCH HAS GIVEN UP HIS CLAIM TO THEM. SO NOW THEY BELONG TO ME!

AND NO ONE WILL STOP ME FROM FINDING THE LAST ONE AND THEN USING THEM ALL.

ARRR! MY EYES!

COME, GIRL, WE ARE NOT THROUGH TONIGHT.

STOP THEM!

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

INTO THE DARKNESS. NO ONE WILL DARE FOLLOW US THROUGH THE DARKNESS.

NO ONE.

FAN OUT. KILL *ANYTHING* THAT MOVES, *EVEN* DEATHWATCH.

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO TRUST THAT MAN. *DEATHWATCH* WAS A MAN OF VISION. ONLY WHEN THE WORLD IS PURGED OF ALL LIGHT WILL IT BE PURIFIED.

YOU WILL HELP ME FIND THE FINAL CANISTER, GIRL. TONIGHT A MAJOR CITY WILL DIE.

ACCUSATIONS WILL FLY, *OTHERS* WILL BE BLAMED, AND A *NUCLEAR WAR* WILL RESULT.

IN THE DARKNESS OF A NUCLEAR WINTER, *I SHALL RULE ALL!*

KRAK

MOVE QUICKLY, GIRL.

ARE YOU SURE?

NO, WAIT.

THAT'S *IT!*

YES. OF COURSE IT *WOULD* BE IN MATZ'S MAUSOLEUM! IT WAS TOO OBVIOUS. IT WAS WHERE WE USED TO HANG OUT I JUST COULDN'T REMEMBER--

--AND NOW I WISH I HADN'T.

NO NEED TO BE SO HARD ON YOURSELF, MY DEAR.

THE WORLD IS ABOUT TO ENTER A *NEW* AGE.

--BUT I WILL SEE THAT YOU DIE **QUICKLY** AND **PAINLESSLY**.

GEE, **THANKS**.

SOMETHING MOVING BACK HERE.

JUST CIRCLE AROUND AND--

WHOOSH

URGH!

IT IS MINE!

I DID THAT WHICH DEATHWATCH COULD NOT DO.

I--

YOU WILL DIE!

NO, WE SHALL ALL GO TOGETHER.

THIS GHOST RIDER IS MAKIN' A HABIT OF SAVIN' ME--

--BUT I'VE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE--

MMMMMPPH!

YOUR STRENGTH IS STILL QUITE IMPRESSIVE--

--BUT YOUR FIGHTING TECHNIQUES LEAVE SOMETHING TO BE DESIRED.

THE CANISTERS' CONTENTS WILL BE RELEASED. TONIGHT IN THIS CEMETERY.

WHAT BETTER LOCATION FROM WHICH TO WATCH A WORLD DIE?

THE DARKNESS WILL BEGIN NOW.

FSSST

NO!

THE TRAIL OF DEATHS CAUSED BY THESE CANISTERS WILL END NOW--

--WITH YOU!

AGAIN YOU THREATEN ME WITH YOUR PITIFUL PENANCE STARE.

YOU WISH TO BRING ME TO THE LIGHT?

ALLOW ME TO BRING YOU TO MY DARKNESS -- PERMANENTLY!

ARRRRRGH!

BLACKOUT'S MECHANICAL FANGS PIERCE GHOST RIDER'S GARMENT, MAKING CONTACT WITH MYSTIC HELLFIRE. THE RESULT IS --

--AGONY.

IT IS OVER, BLACKOUT.

MY HELLFIRE HAS FUSED THE CANISTERS TOGETHER AND STERILIZED THE NEUROTOXINS.

ALL THAT REMAINS IS YOUR PUNISHMENT.

MY FACE... MY MOUTH... THE TOXINS ...YOU! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

YOU WILL PAY. I WILL HAVE MY VENGEANCE!

NOT YET... NOT TONIGHT... BUT SOON!

VENGEANCE?

ONLY THE INNOCENT WILL BE AVENGED--

--BY ME!

DAWN...

MY CITY.

MY BEAUTIFUL CITY.

IT APPEARS THAT TODAY I HAVE SAVED YOU FROM TERRORISTS.

DAREDEVIL AND THE PUNISHER WOULD BE AMUSED BY THAT THOUGHT--

--IF THEY COULD EVER BELIEVE IT.

THIS DEATHWATCH IS NOT ONE TO BE TAKEN LIGHTLY.

AND THE ONE WHO APPARENTLY AIDED ME IN TONIGHT'S VENTURE-- THE GHOST RIDER.

TONIGHT HE WAS AN UNWITTING ALLY, BUT WHAT WILL THE FUTURE BRING?

MY INSTINCTS TELL ME THAT HE MAY BECOME YET ANOTHER THORN IN MY SIDE LIKE DAREDEVIL AND THE PUNISHER.

I'LL WATCH AND WAIT.

LATER THAT DAY...

IT'S OVER, BARB.

NYU MEDICAL CENTER

HOSPITAL ZONE

NO ENTRY

THE MEN WHO WANTED TO *HURT* US ARE GONE.

GHOST RIDER, THE THING THAT I BECOME, SAVED THE CITY.

MAYBE I SHOULD GET **RID** OF THE MOTOR-CYCLE NOW--

20:13!

--SO THAT ALL OF THIS CAN *REALLY* BE OVER.

YET, DESPITE HIS VIOLENT METHODS, I SENSE THAT THE GHOST RIDER WANTS TO HELP **PROTECT** PEOPLE WHO CAN'T PROTECT *THEM-SELVES*

IS IT RIGHT FOR ME TO DEPRIVE THE INNOCENT OF A PROTECTOR?

IS IT?

THE END

NEXT ISSUE:

DAN ATTEMPTS TO SEPARATE HIMSELF FROM HIS POSSESSED MOTORCYCLE AND DISCOVERS THAT--

YOU CAN RUN, BUT YOU CAN'T HYDE!

MARVEL® COMICS

$1.50 US
$2.00 CAN
4
AUG
CC 01317

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

GHOST RIDER

BATTLING THE MANIACAL MR. HYDE!™

JAVIER SALTARES 90'

WHEN INNOCENT BLOOD IS SPILLED, A SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE IS BORN, AND DANNY KETCH FINDS HIMSELF TRANSFORMED. STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

GHOST RIDER

YOU CAN RUN, BUT YOU CAN'T HYDE!

MACKIE - WRITER
SALTARES - BREAKDOWNS
TEXEIRA - FINISHES
HEISLER - LETTERS
WRIGHT - COLORS
CHASE - EDITOR
DEFALCO - EDITOR IN CHIEF

MAN, THIS USED TA BE A GOOD NEIGHBORHOOD UNTIL *YOU* PEOPLE STARTED MOVIN' IN!

NOW OUR *LITTLE KIDS* ARE *DISAPPEARIN'*--

--MAYBE IT'S TIME *SOMETHIN'* STARTED HAPPENIN' TA *YOUR* KIDS!

WHAT ARE YOU *TALKING* ABOUT? IT ISN'T ONLY *WHITE CHILDREN* WHO ARE DISAPPEARING--

SHUT UP!

SCO-128

SAY G'NIGHT TA YA WIFE AN' KIDDIE!

NO! LEAVE THEM--ACK!

DO 'EM GOOD, BOBBIE-BOY!

TCHINK

VROOOOM

HEY, S.B., I THOUGHT ALL TH' FACTORIES WAS *CLOSED* THIS TIME'A NIGHT? WHATTA YA THINK ALL THAT *NOISE* IS--?

BOOM!

I AM GHOST RIDER.

OHNO, NOT *HIM!*

S.B., WHATTA WE GONNA DO--

--NOW-- ACK!!!

S.B.! BOBBIE! HELP ME, MAN!

HE JUST *DISAPPEARED* WITH *RICKO.*

WHATTA WE *DO*, S.B.?

HELLLLLLP...

VROOOM

TAKE OFF BEFORE HE--

TCHINK

S.B.!

--COMES BACK!

COME!

BOBBIE!!?

I GOTTA GET *OUTTA* HERE BEFORE THAT *FREAK* COMES BACK FOR ME, TOO!

THIS IS MY TURF--

--I CAN *LOSE* HIM IN THESE FACTORY YARDS *EASY!*

HE'LL *NEVER* FIND ME IN HERE--!

IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO *JOIN* YOUR FRIENDS!

THIS SIDE UP

NO WAY, MAN!

YOU *AIN'T* TAKIN' ME AWAY!

IT'S USELESS, BOY. VENGEANCE CANNOT SO EASILY BE DENIED.

DENY THIS!

FWAK

AH MAN, HE WASN'T SO TOUGH!

WENT DOWN JUST LIKE ANY OTHER SPAZ!

IF I HURRY ENOUGH I CAN FINISH OFF THOSE THREE--

--UMMPH!

YOU CAN'T ESCAPE THE SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE!

GET AWAY! LEAVE ME ALONE! I DIDN'T DO NOTHING!

THEN YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT!

LATER THAT NIGHT...

A NEIGHBORHOOD BAR ON MANHATTAN'S LOWER EAST SIDE.

COME, MY DEAR, IT'S BEEN TOO LONG SINCE I'VE ENJOYED THE COMPANY OF A WOMAN AS LOVELY AS YOU.

LET GO OF ME, YOU OLD DRUNK!

YOU STINK, AND I'VE GOT OTHER TABLES TO WAIT ON!

DON'T BE SO HASTY, PRETTY ONE. YOU DON'T KNOW WHO I AM.

I ASSURE YOU THAT IF YOU ARE *NICE* TO ME YOU *WON'T* REGRET IT.

YEAH--?

SWOP

REGRET THIS!

YOU DARE STRIKE ME?

BAD ENOUGH THAT I WAS *HUMILIATED* BY THAT WORM *COBRA*--*

--AND THEN *BATTERED* BY THE *HULK*.**

* CAPTAIN AMERICA #'S 365-367.
** INCREDIBLE HULK #368.--BOBBIE

THAT GRAY FREAK WILL *PAY* ONCE I'VE FULLY *RECOV-ERED*--

--BUT YOU, *WOMAN*, WILL TASTE MY FURY *NOW!*

-:GACK:- F-FRASER-- HELP!

I'M *HERE*, GINA!

YOU'VE HAD WAY TOO MUCH HOOCH, MY MAN.

GINA'S LIKE FAMILY TO ME AND MY GANG--

--SO WHY DON'T YOU TAKE YOUR SCRAWNY BUTT OUTTA HERE WHILE IT'S STILL IN ONE PIECE?

YOU DARE!

I AM DR. CALVIN ZABO!

YOU SHOULD CONSIDER YOURSELF LUCKY THAT I DON'T RIP YOUR HEAD FROM YOUR SHOULDERS AND--

THANKS FOR THE WARNING, DOC--

NOW TAKE OFF WHILE I'M STILL FEELING FRIENDLY.

OOF!

IF IT WEREN'T FOR THIS HEAD INJURY THAT I RECEIVED IN MY BATTLE WITH THE HULK, I WOULD TRANSFORM INTO HYDE AND MAKE THEM ALL REGRET HAVING BEEN BORN.

STILL, THEY MUST PAY.

YOU "DARE" THINK THAT YOU WILL SHOOT FIRST.

HEH HEH

HEH HEH

HEH HEH HEH

LAUGH WHILE YOU CAN!

KRAKK

NO ONE MANHANDLES DR. CALVIN ZABO.

BAD MOVE, DOC. HITTIN' FRASER MAKES YOU A CANDIDATE FOR *INSTANT SURGERY.*

WAIT!

HE'S MINE!

NOT WHILE I CAN STILL--

--RUN!

KRASH

GET THE BIKES!

I WANT THAT SQUIRT'S *EARS* ON MY HANDLEBAR!

CYPRESS HILLS CEMETERY, BROOKLYN...

IN A FLASH OF SUPERNATURAL LIGHT, THE TRANSFORMATION FROM GHOST RIDER, SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE, ENDS.

DAN KETCH IS IMMEDIATELY FLOODED WITH THE MEMORIES OF EARLIER EVENTS--

--MEMORIES OF THE VIOLENT ATTACK ON HIS SISTER--

--MEMORIES OF PAIN.

NICIEZA "TOO MANY WORDS"

WHY DO I PUT MYSELF *THROUGH* THIS?

WHAT *HE* DOES *SICKENS* ME.

BARB'S OUT OF DANGER, *DEATH WATCH* AND *BLACK-OUT* AREN'T THREATENING US ANY LONGER.

WHY DO I KEEP *ALLOWING* MYSELF TO UNDERGO THE TRANS-FORMATION INTO HIM? I *DO* HAVE A *CHOICE.*

DON'T I?

BUT IT'S NOT LIKE HE HURTS ANYONE WHO DOESN'T *DESERVE* TO BE HURT--!

I CAN'T BELIEVE I THINK *ANYONE* DESERVES WHAT *HE* DOES TO THEM!

I'VE GOT TO GET RID OF THIS *BIKE*--

--AND I'VE GOT TO DO IT *TONIGHT!*

FRAZETTA

FRAZ 1928

MEANWHILE...

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M *RUNNING* FROM THESE CRETINS.

STOKES

BUT THEY *MUSTN'T* CATCH ME WHILE I'M STILL UNABLE TO *TRANSFORM* INTO *HYDE*.

THIS HEAD INJURY ISN'T *THAT* BAD.

I'VE GOT TO TRY AGAIN.

EVERY CELL IN MY BODY IS ON *FIRE*...THE *PAIN*... SO CLOSE TO--

--NO!

THAT PARKING GARAGE!

PARKING

RKING

RATES

IF I SNEAK IN THE BACK WAY, THEY'LL *NEVER* FIND ME.

LOOK AT ME! *SLITHERING* AROUND LIKE THAT SLUG *COBRA*!

ELSEWHERE...

THIS IS PERFECT.

I CAN GET RID OF THE MOTORCYCLE AND MAKE SURE THAT NO ONE ELSE GETS HOLD OF IT AND UNDERGOES THE SAME HORRIBLE TRANSFORMATIONS THAT I DO.

PLUS IT'LL BE IN MANHATTAN -- FAR ENOUGH AWAY FROM ME THAT I WON'T BE TEMPTED TO USE IT AGAIN.

SOMETIMES I FEEL LIKE THE TRANSFORMATION IS A DRUG.

COULD SOMETHING INSIDE ME FEED ON THE VIOLENCE?

IT'LL BE GOOD TO GET AWAY FROM IT.

RMP...

PARKING

YO, JACK. GOT TIME FOR A FRIEND FROM SISTER ALICE'S FIRST GRADE CLASS?

NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ITEMS LEFT IN CAR.

LIKE YOU EVEN HAVE TO ASK, DANNY?

I'M SORRY I HAVEN'T BEEN BY MUCH SINCE YOUR SISTER GOT HURT. STACY'S BEEN KEEPIN' ME POSTED, BUT WITH WORK AND SCHOOL --IT'S JUST...

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

ANYWAY, WHAT BRINGS MY *BROOKLYN* BUDDY INTO THE COLD, DARK BIG CITY? AND SINCE WHEN DO YOU RIDE A BIKE?

THAT'S WHY I'M HERE.

I JUST GOT IT. DON'T FEEL TOO COMFORTABLE RIDING IT RIGHT NOW--

--WITH **BARB** IN THE HOSPITAL, I'VE BEEN WAY TOO DISTRACTED.

I WAS WONDERING IF I COULD STORE IT HERE FOR A WHILE? I'D PAY WHATEVER IT COSTS--

--AS LONG AS IT'S SAFE, AND ***NO ONE*** CAN GET AT IT.

DON'T BLAME YOU, DANNY, IT'S A GORGEOUS BIKE, AND I GOT JUST THE PLACE FOR ***EXACTLY*** THE RIGHT PRICE.

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

THIS BASEMENT LEVEL IS PRETTY MUCH UNUSED.

ONCE A YEAR THE OWNER COMES DOWN AND CHECKS ON HIS COLLECTION OF OLD WRECKS.

WE'LL PUT THE BIKE IN THIS STORAGE CAGE--

--THROW A DROP CLOTH ON IT--

--AND IT'LL BE LOCKED UP SAFER THAN THE ROYAL JEWELS.

I APPRECIATE THIS MORE THAN YOU'LL EVER KNOW, JACK!

IT'S NO BIG DEAL, DAN. IT AIN'T LIKE IT'S AN ILLEGAL WEAPON OR SOMETHIN!

ANYWAY, HOW'S YOUR MOM HOLDING UP? LIKE I SAID, I'VE BEEN WANTING TO STOP BY, BUT--

PRIVATE PARKING

RAMMMMBLE

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, GUYS! WHAT DO YA WANT?

DON'T WORRY, *PRETTY BOY*, WE AIN'T GONNA TRASH YOUR PLACE *UNLESS* YOU GET IN OUR WAY.

THERE'S A GUY WE'RE AFTER WHO'S HIDING IN HERE SOMEWHERE. YOU JUST STAND BACK AND LET US *FIND* THE LITTLE TWERP, AND WE'LL LEAVE REAL *PEACEFUL* LIKE.

NO WAY!

DON'T BE SUCH A *TOUGH GUY*, PRETTY BOY,

RELAX AND YOU WON'T *LOSE* THEM LOOKS--

OOF!

YEAARGH!

SCRAK

LOOKS LIKE WE FOUND US A REGULAR *BRUCE LEE!*

C'MERE, BRUCE--

--LET'S SEE IF YA CAN BREAK THIS HERE PAVEMENT WITH YA *HEAD!*

WHOMP

HOW ABOUT YOU, *SHRIMP?* YA WANNA BE *STUPID*, TOO?

NO. I--

GOOD!

JUST *GET* IN THE BOOTH WITH YOUR FRIEND AND BE *QUIET* WHILE WE CHECK OUT THE OTHER LEVELS!

MAYBE YA CAN HELP HIM *COUNT SHEEP* OR SOMETHIN'!

WE'LL LET YA OUT WHEN WE'RE DONE WITH THE *OTHER* WIMP.

I *NEED* THE BIKE!

A FEW MINUTES LATER, ON THE THIRD LEVEL...

OKAY! I WANT EVERYONE TA SPREAD OUT!

NO! THEY'RE HERE ALREADY!

I'M SO CLOSE! I CAN FEEL HYDE STRAINING TO COME OUT!

JUST FIND THE LITTLE WIMP--

--ANYONE WHO HURTS HIM TOO MUCH IS GONNA ANSWER TO ME!

HE'S MINE!

MEANWHILE...

BEEP BEEP

WHERE IS THAT GUY?

C'MON, SCOTT, YOU HAVE A MONTHLY PARKING SPOT. WHY NOT PARK IT YOURSELF?

SURE--

--HOW MUCH TROUBLE COULD IT BE?

HUH?!

NO! DON'T GO UP THERE!

LET ME OUT OF HERE!

I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE-- GET HELP...

RATES 90 PER DAY , & WEEKEND + MAN. RATES

...NO! I...CAN'T... REACH...IT!

I NEED THE BIKE!

ON THE UPPER LEVEL...

THAT'S IT! WE'VE COVERED EVERY OTHER PLACE. LET'S *FIND* THE WIMP!

COME OUT, HYDE! I NEED YOU, *NOW!*

EXIT

HEY, FRASER, LOOKS LIKE WE GOT SOME *COMPANY!*

GET RID OF THEM *QUICK*, SO WE CAN FIND THE WIMP!

YES! HYDE, I CAN *FEEL* YOU!

COME TO ME!

NOW!

TWO TRANSFORMATIONS BEGIN IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE GARAGE--

THE FIRST IS A PRODUCT OF THE TWISTED SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENTS OF A MADMAN--

ARGHH! YES!

--THE SECOND?

EWOOM

THAT *NOISE!* IT SOUNDED LIKE A *SCREAM.* THE PEOPLE IN THE CAR, THEY'RE...

THE *BIKE!* IT'S HERE! *HOW?!*

I CAN JUST... ABOUT...REACH--

FWOOSH

YES!

FWAM

NO MORE INNOCENT PEOPLE WILL BE HURT TODAY!

YOU PUNY, INSIGNIFICANT *SLUG*--

--TREMBLE BEFORE THE WRATH OF *MISTER HYDE!*

WHAT THE--?

HUH

OH, SCOTTY!

OUT, BOY! I NEED THESE WHEELS!

SLAM

OH MY--!

GOOD TRY, MAGGOT, BUT NOT GOOD ENOUGH!

IT'S PAYBACK TIME! AND YOU AND YOUR LITTLE FRIENDS ARE GOING TO BE ON THE RECEIVING END OF A WHOLE LOT OF PAIN!

KTANK

NO! THOSE OTHERS ARE INNOCENT!

EH? INNOCENT?

WHO CARES?

WHUMP

WHAM

THIS FIGHT CAN CONTINUE--

TCHINK

--BUT NOT HERE.

I DON'T *FEEL* LIKE LEAVING YET!

BUT I DON'T MIND *CAVING* IN YOUR SKULL BEFORE I TAKE CARE OF THE OTHERS.

KRAK

EASIER SAID THAN DONE.

POW

I WILL TEACH YOU THE MEANING OF PAIN.

PHYSICAL PAIN IS ONLY THE BEGINNING!

THE MENTAL ANGUISH WILL--

ENOUGH!

STOP PREACHING TO ME!

I AM *HYDE.* I'VE FOUGHT THE LIKES OF *THOR, HERCULES,* AND *THE HULK--*

--DO YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT A *MOTORCYCLE RIDING FREAK* COULD HURT ME MORE THAN THEY COULD?

YES.

WELL, YOU'RE WRO--

--ARGH!

MY BRAIN! IT'S ON FIRE!

I CAN FEEL MYSELF TRANSFORM-ING BACK TO ZABO!

NO!

HAVE...TO... GET...AWAY!

I'M NOT THROUGH WITH YOU.

GET BACK! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

FWAMMM

GOOD LORD!

BODEGA

MOVE IN AND CUFF 'EM BOTH!

IS HE KIDDIN' OR WHAT?

POLICE

I'M NOT GOING BACK TO THE VAULT!

BUT YOU'RE ON MY LIST, FLAME-HEAD-- YOU'RE ON MY LIST!

AND YOU ARE ON MINE, HYDE.

SHORTLY...

I'M TELLIN' YA, THAT GHOST RIDER IS ONE ***RIGHTEOUS*** DUDE! HE SAVED ALL OUR LIVES, ESPECIALLY MINE.

OFFICER, ***PLEASE LISTEN***. MY FRIEND DAN KETCH IS MISSING. HE WAS WITH ME WHEN--

JACK, IT'S OKAY! I GOT AWAY.

YOU HAD ME WORRIED, PAL!

LET'S GET THAT BIKE OF YOURS BACK IN STORAGE.

NO, JACK--

I DECIDED I CAN'T LOCK IT AWAY-- NOT YET ANYWAY!

ELSEWHERE...

OKAY, JASON, WE'LL BE HOME SOON--

--I KNOW IT'S PAST YOUR BEDTIME, BUT WE HAD TO TAKE GRANDMA HER MEDICINE.

THIS STREET IS SO DARK! SO--

OH, MY--!

FWOMP

NO!

MY BABY! JASON! BRING BACK MY--

--BABY.

NEXT MONTH:

THE PUNISHER

MARVEL® COMICS

TM & © 1990 MARVEL ENT GROUP INC

$1.50 US
$2.00 CAN
5
SEPT
CC 01317

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

CHOS

ZONE

TAKES ON THE THE PUNISHER®

PART 1 OF 2

JIM LEE

WHEN INNOCENT BLOOD IS SPILLED, A SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE IS BORN, AND DANNY KETCH FINDS HIMSELF TRANSFORMED. STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

GHOST RIDER

FOREST PARK, QUEENS...

MINUTES AGO, SIX YOUTHS ATTACKED AN INNOCENT WOMAN ON HER WAY HOME FROM WORK.

THEY TOOK HER MONEY, BUT THAT WASN'T ENOUGH.

THEY TOOK HER DIGNITY, AND TRIED TO TAKE HER LIFE. GHOST RIDER WOULDN'T LET THEM--

--NOW FOUR OF THE YOUTHS HAVE FELT THE **SOUL-SEARING** TORMENT OF THE GHOST RIDER'S **PENANCE STARE**-- AND THE REMAINING TWO PLEAD FOR MERCY FROM ONE WHO WILL SHOW THEM NONE.

GETTING PAID!

MICHAEL HEISLER LETTERER

HOWARD MACKIE WRITER

GREGORY WRIGHT COLORIST

JAVIER SALTARES
MARK TEXEIRA ARTISTS

BOBBIE CHASE EDITOR

TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

WHY?

IT WASN'T ME, MAN--I SWEAR!

M-ME EITHER!

IT WAS LOUIE AND THE OTHERS, THEY DID IT ALL. WE JUST WATCHED!

C'MON, LET US GO! WE'RE JUST KIDS.

SHE MUST BE AVENGED.

EVEN IF YOU ONLY WATCHED, YOU ARE AS RESPONSIBLE AS THE OTHERS.

AFTER HER WOUNDS HEAL, HER PAIN WILL STILL RUN DEEPLY.

YOU MUST FEEL HER PAIN.

N-N-NO!

FREEZE!

PUT THE KIDS DOWN, BUDDY--

POLICE

DO AS HE SAID-- NOW!

N-N-N-NO...

NO FANCY STUNTS, NO CUTE MOVES, NO NOTHING!

WE'VE RADIOED FOR BACK-UP. THE PARK IS SEALED UP TIGHT. AND TO TOP IT ALL, WE'VE GOT YOUR BIKE. SO JUST SIT TIGHT.

I CAN NEVER--

--BE SEPARATED FROM--

--MY MOTORCYCLE.

I'M TELLIN' YOU, YOU AIN'T GONNA GET AWAY THIS TIME!

ALL UNITS, MOVE IN AND STOP THAT FLAMIN' HEADED FREAK!

HOW?

VENGEANCE RIDES FREE.

STOP THE VAN, DOUG!

YES, MS. WEI.

IT'S HIM! I THOUGHT THE PAPER BOYS MADE HIM UP!

KTUNK

NEWS AT SIX

HOLEE...

DON'T YOU DARE SCREW THIS UP, DOUG!

I WANT FOOTAGE--

--THIS IS GOING TO BE MY HOTTEST STORY EVER!

THE NEXT DAY. WASHINGTON SQUARE PARK, MANHATTAN.

OKAY, BOYS, LET'S DO 'EM--

SCREEEE

--IT'S TIME FOR GETTIN' PAID!

THE MAN DIDN'T GIVE US THESE HERE POPPERS FOR SHOW.

BUDDA

BUDDA BUDDA

BUDDA BUDDA

SCHOOL'S OUT, YUPPIE!

RUN-- ARGH!

YO, J, I GOT A LITTLE SCHOOL GIRL! SHOULD WE KEEP HER?

DO IT, TOMMY T, DO--

KTOOM

I'M CALLED THE *PUNISHER.*

BRAAT

BRAAT

BRAAT

YEARS AGO MY *FAMILY* WAS *KILLED* BY SLIME WITH GUNS. I *COULDN'T* HELP *THEM*--

--I *CAN* HELP *THESE PEOPLE.*

I SEE IT *ALL* THE TIME--

--MOST OF THE GUYS WITH THE *BIG GUNS* ARE BRAVE AS LONG AS NO ONE'S *SHOOTING* BACK AT THEM.

BRAAT

SHOOT BACK--

--AND THEY *RUN.*

MOVE THIS THING! HE'S GAINING ON US!

FANCY WEAPONS FOR KIDS.

THEY DIDN'T BUY THEM ON THE *STREET.*

SOMEONE'S SUPPLYING THEM. I THINK I KNOW WHO IT IS.

I THOUGHT HE WAS *DEAD.*

WHEN I FIND HIM, HE *WILL* BE.

GOT TO LEAD THEM AWAY FROM THE PARK.

AWAY FROM THE PEOPLE.

THESE PUNKS DON'T CARE WHO GETS HIT WITH THEIR STRAY FIRE--

--I DO.

BLAM

.454 CASULL. ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL HAND-GUNS AVAILABLE. AND WITH THE LASER SIGHTING, THE MOST ACCURATE.

THE ENGINE BLOCK IS HISTORY.

TIME FOR SOME ANSWERS.

KA-WAM!

GET AWAY!

MY ARM. IT'S BUSTED!

I KNOW MY RIGHTS. YOU HAFTA GET ME A DOCTOR. I AIN'T TELLIN' YOU NOTHIN'. I KNOW MY RIGHTS!

YOU HAVE ONE RIGHT--

--YOU DON'T TELL ME WHAT I WANT TO KNOW, AND YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT--

--PERMANENTLY!

THE NEXT DAY IN BROOKLYN...

OH, DAN, THIS FEELS SO GOOD!

IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER LIKE THIS.

I REALLY WISH WE COULD START GOING OUT AGAIN! IT'D BE GOOD FOR YOU--

IT'S TOO SOON, STACY. I NEED A LITTLE MORE TIME TO GET OVER WHAT'S HAPPENED TO BARB.

...AND NOW A SPECIAL REPORT ON THE RECENT "GETTING PAID" ACTS OF RANDOM VIOLENCE THAT HAVE BEEN PLAGUING THE CITY.

HERE WITH THAT STORY IS SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT LINDA WEI. LINDA...

THANK YOU, CHUCK.

"GETTING PAID."

THE SLOGAN HAS BECOME A BATTLE CRY FOR THE LEGIONS OF HEAVILY ARMED YOUTHS TERRORIZING OUR CITY STREETS OVER THE PAST FEW WEEKS.

VIGILANT ACTIVITY

"LAST NIGHT, YET ANOTHER INNOCENT VICTIM FELL PREY TO ONE OF THE ROVING BANDS OF YOUTHS.

"THE POLICE CLAIM TO BE FOLLOWING ALL LEADS. BUT ARE THEY OVERLOOKING THE OBVIOUS?

LAST NIGHT I WITNESSED THE SO-CALLED GHOST RIDER EVADE A POLICE DRAGNET AT THE SCENE OF THE CRIME, IN WHICH A YOUNG WOMAN WAS BRUTALLY ATTACKED AND SEVERAL YOUNG PEOPLE WERE HURT.

"THAT SAME NIGHT, THE PUNISHER WAS ON HAND AT WASHINGTON SQUARE DURING ANOTHER GETTING PAID INCIDENT.

ARE THE POLICE EXPLORING THE SIMILARITIES BETWEEN THE TWO ALLEGED VIGILANTES?

COULD THEY BE ONE AND THE SAME PERSON?

THAT'S A *LAUGH*-- THE GHOST RIDER AND THE PUNISHER-- THE SAME *PERSON*.

ME AND THE PUNISHER--THE SAME PERSON.

I DON'T KNOW *WHAT* THE GHOST RIDER IS, BUT HE *SURE AIN'T* A PERSON.

THEY MUST BE STOPPED.

THESE MOTORCYCLE RIDING VIGILANTES ARE AS DANGEROUS AS THE "GETTING PAID" GANGS-- IF THEY'RE NOT BEHIND THE--

SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT SHES *TALKING ABOUT*.

CLIK

I RETAIN THE GHOST RIDER'S *MEMORIES*, AND I KNOW HE'S BASICALLY *GOOD*. HES NEVER *KILLED* ANY-ONE. NEVER HURT *ANYONE* WHO DIDN'T *DESERVE*--

DAN? WHAT ARE YOU *THINKING* ABOUT?

NOTHING.

DAN, YOU'VE GOT TO *LET ME IN*. EVER SINCE BARB GOT HURT, YOU'VE BEEN PULLING FURTHER AND FURTHER INTO *YOURSELF*. WHAT *IS IT*?

IT'S *REALLY* NOTHING.

COME ON, DAN! YOU'VE GOT TO TALK TO ME, JACK, OR YOUR MOM--ANYONE!

THIS *THING* INSIDE OF YOU IS GOING TO *EAT YOU ALIVE*.

YOU KNOW *NOTHING* ABOUT THE THING THAT'S *INSIDE ME*.

NOTHING.

AT THAT MOMENT ON JAMAICA AVENUE...

THE KID SPILLED HIS GUTS ABOUT THE WEAPONS SUPPLIER.

POINTED ME TOWARDS A WAREHOUSE ON THE NEXT BLOCK.

NOW IT'S A WAITING GAME.

THE REPORTER'S CONNECTING ME WITH THIS GHOST RIDER.

SHE'S WAY OFF THE MARK.

THEY USUALLY ARE.

I'VE HEARD SOME PRETTY IMPRESSIVE THINGS ABOUT THE GHOST RIDER.

HEARD HE TOOK OUT A BUNCH OF THE KINGPIN'S MEN.

THOUGHT HE WAS ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS.

MAYBE HE IS CONNECTED TO THIS, SOMEHOW.

OH, WELL.

SWOK

LATER THAT AFTERNOON...

THIS GHOST RIDER MUST BE TRACKED DOWN AND SHOWN FOR WHAT HE IS--

--A CRIMINAL.

THE POLICE OBVIOUSLY CAN'T, OR WON'T, BRING HIM TO JUSTICE. WHERE CAN THE CITIZENS OF THIS CITY TURN?

WHERE?

CERTAINLY NOT TO YOU, MS. WEI!

FIRST, YOU CONDEMN THE GHOST RIDER AS A VIGILANTE, AND THEN YOU ROUSE THE PEOPLE TO TAKE ACTION INTO THEIR OWN HANDS.

WHAT IS YOUR PROBLEM, LADY?

DANIEL!

I'M LEAVING FOR CHURCH NOW. WHERE'S STACY?

SHE'S OFF TO THE GYM--GETTING READY FOR THE POLICE PHYSICAL EXAM.

SHE'S SUCH A LOVELY GIRL, DANIEL. THE ENTIRE DOLAN FAMILY HAS BEEN THE ANSWER TO A PRAYER SINCE BARB WAS HURT.

MRS. DOLAN IS MEETING ME AT CHURCH AND THEN DRIVING ME TO THE HOSPITAL TO SEE BARB TONIGHT.

WHAT DO THE DOCTORS SAY ABOUT BARB? ANY IDEA WHEN SHE'LL COME OUT OF THE COMA?

THEY KNOW NOTHING MORE THAN THEY DID WHEN SHE WAS FIRST HURT IN THE CEMETERY. THEY REALLY CAN'T EXPLAIN WHY SHE'S IN THE COMA--

--AND NOW IT LOOKS LIKE SHE MAY BE COMING DOWN WITH PNEUMONIA. THAT'S WHY I'M GOING TO CHURCH, TO PRAY FOR HER. IT'S ALL IN GOD'S HANDS, DANIEL.

AND I KNOW THAT SHE'LL BE BACK WITH US SOON!

SO DON'T YOU WORRY! AND IF YOU GO OUT TONIGHT, PLEASE BE CAREFUL!

THIS NEIGHBORHOOD JUST ISN'T SAFE ANYMORE!

I HAVE A POWER. I COULD TRY TO USE IT TO GET SOME MONEY TO HELP OUT MOM... AND BARB... GET BETTER DOCTORS... GET PAID BACK FOR THE SUFFERING THAT WE'RE GOING THROUGH...

...THAT BARB IS GOING THROUGH...

I COULD NEVER BRING MYSELF TO USE THE GHOST RIDER'S POWERS FOR MY OWN PURPOSES.

I DON'T THINK I COULD EVER HAVE THAT MUCH CONTROL OVER HIM ONCE THE TRANSFORMATION HAPPENS.

I'VE GOT TO FIGURE THIS OUT. GET SOMEONE TO HELP ME LEARN ABOUT HIM--

--BUT THERE'S TOO MUCH GOING ON. BARB, THE DISAPPEARANCES, ALL THIS VIOLENCE. I JUST DON'T KNOW...

HEY, EDDIE, WAIT UP!

HI, DAN.

WHERE YOU OFF TO IN SUCH A HURRY THAT YOU CAN'T EVEN STOP BY AND SAY HI TO YOUR OLD LITTLE LEAGUE COACH?

I'M ONLY GONNA TELL YOU 'CAUSE I KNOW YOU'RE COOL, DAN.

I'M HEADIN' OVER TO THE OLD WAREHOUSE ON FULTON STREET. I HEAR YOU CAN PICK UP SOME HARDWARE FOR FREE.

AND WITH ALL THE STUFF GOIN' DOWN AROUND HERE-- I DON'T PLAN ON DISAPPEARING LIKE PAULIE STRATTON OF THE JOKERS!

HARDWARE? GUNS, EDDIE?

YOU'RE ONLY ELEVEN YEARS OLD!

SO?

SO GET YOUR BUTT HOME, BEFORE I LET YOUR FATHER KNOW WHAT YOU'RE INTO!

MAN, I THOUGHT YOU WAS COOL!

NOT COOL, EDDIE! HOT!

AND ABOUT TO BECOME HOTTER!

ELSEWHERE...

THIS IS THE PLACE.

KIDS ARE GATHERING ALREADY.

THERE HAVE *GOT* TO BE SENTRIES AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE.

AND WITH ALL THAT FIREPOWER FLOATING AROUND DOWN THERE--

--I'M NOT MAKING MY MOVE UNTIL I KNOW WHERE *ALL* THE PROS ARE.

BINGO.

ANOTHER KID.

NICE BIKE.

TOO BAD IT MAY BE THE LAST TIME HE *RIDES* IT.

I CAN *BLUFF* MY WAY THROUGH THIS.

IS THIS WHERE WE GET THE *HARDWARE*?

YEAH! THIS THE PLACE.

WHY DON' WE *SHOW* HIM THE *HARDWARE* HE GETS FOR ASKIN', CLEAN?

CLIK

IF YOU GOTTA ASK, YOU DON'T BELONG HERE!

AND THAT MEANS TROUBLE FOR YOU.

LOOKS LIKE I WAS WRONG ABOUT AT LEAST ONE OF THE KIDS.

GOOD.

WHY ISN'T THE TRANSFORMATION KICKING IN--

I NEED IT!

CHILL!

IF WE WASTE HIM HERE, WE'RE GONNA BLOW ANY CHANCE OF GETTIN' THE FIREPOWER WE CAME FOR.

TAKE OFF, LITTLE BOY!

AND IF YOU BRING THE MAN HERE, YOU'RE DEAD MEAT!

DON'T LOOK SO DOWN, KID.

YOU DON'T WANT TO BE ANYWHERE NEAR THIS PLACE COME NIGHTFALL.

SUNSET IN FOREST PARK...

I CAN'T *BELIEVE* IT.

WHEN I NEEDED IT THE MOST, THIS BIKE LET ME DOWN.

GUESS I'M FINALLY *DONE* WITH THE GHOST RIDER.

I DIDN'T LIKE THE THINGS THAT HE DID, BUT THERE WAS SOME *GOOD* IN WHAT HE WAS DOING. HE *NEVER* HURT AN INNOCENT PERSON AND--

--HE WAS THE ONLY WAY I COULD GET BACK AT THE PEOPLE WHO HURT *BARB*.

NOW HE'S GONE.

MEANWHILE...

LOOKS LIKE THE LAST OF THEM.

MUST BE SUPPLYING GUNS TO HALF THE KIDS IN THIS CITY.

I'LL WAIT A FEW MORE MINUTES FOR ANY LAST MINUTE--

--ARRIVALS!

TOO BAD. I'D HOPED HE WAS ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS.

HOPE HE HITS THE ROAD--

--QUICKLY.

THOSE EYES. CAN HE SEE ME?

VROOOOOM

RODE STRAIGHT FOR THE BUILDING.

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE--

--OR IS IT?

THE CASULL *SHOULD* TAKE HIM DOWN.

INSIDE...

WHERE'S THE MAN?

WHERE'S THE HARDWARE?

IT STINKS IN HERE!

I'M BOOKIN' IF HE DON'T SHOW UP SOON!

CAN'T SEE A THING.

WHERE'S THE LIGHTS?

YAH! GIVE US SOME LIGHTS!

CLAK

SILENCE!

WELCOME!

MEANWHILE...

WHY DO YOU WISH TO HURT ME?

YOU'VE BEEN PUTTING WEAPONS IN THE HANDS OF KIDS.

YOU'RE THE ONE WITH THE GUNS.

I WANT TO AVENGE THE DEATH OF THE INNOCENT...

DOESN'T LOOK LIKE AN AVENGER TO ME--

--AND HE'S NOT DENYING HIS GUILT.

FOUR DIRECT HITS AND HE'S STILL COMING.

WHAT IS HE?

ENOUGH.

GUN'S GONE.

I'VE BEEN IN TOUGHER SPOTS.

LET'S SEE HOW TOUGH HIS *RIBS* ARE.

LIKE HITTING A WALL--

--BUT HE'S GOING DOWN--

ENOUGH.

YOU HAVE BEEN *OPPRESSED* LONG ENOUGH.

UNDER THE GUISE OF NATIONALISM, PATRIOTISM, AND LOVE OF COUNTRY, YOU HAVE BEEN HELD *DOWN* BY THE GOVERNMENT WHICH *PRETENDS* TO SUPPORT YOU.

IN FACT, THEY ARE IN COLLUSION WITH THE *BIG BUSINESSES* TO *KEEP* YOU DOWN.

IT MUST *STOP!*

HE'S NOT HUMAN.

I'VE BEEN UP AGAINST *NOT HUMAN* BEFORE.

HAVE TO AVOID THOSE FISTS--

--BUY TIME UNTIL THE RIGHT MOMENT.

SOME OF YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN *WEAPONS.*

TODAY THE REST OF YOU WILL BE SUPPLIED WITH MORE WEAPONS AND SOMETHING ELSE--

--A *PLAN.*

OOPH!

KNOCKED THE *WIND* OUT OF ME.

NO TIME TO LICK MY WOUNDS.

HE'S GETTING READY TO MOVE--

--AND I CAN'T LET HIM.

TOMORROW YOU WILL BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO STRIKE AT THE VERY *INSTITUTIONS* THAT HAVE BEEN KEEPING YOU DOWN.

WHEN *CORPORATE* AMERICA FALLS--

--THE PITIFUL *FLAG-WAVING PATRIOTS* WILL TUMBLE WITH IT.

THE COUNTRY WILL THEN BE IN THE HANDS OF *GLORIOUS ANARCHY.*

IF THIS DOESN'T STOP HIM--

--NOTHING I'M CARRYING WILL.

GOING OFF THE ROOF.

YOU? YOU ARE BEHIND THIS?

NICE OF YOU TO DROP IN ON US, PUNISHER. I SEE YOU HAVE A *DIFFERENT* PARTNER THIS TIME.

I THOUGHT YOU WERE *DEAD.*

FLAG SMASHER IS NOT SO EASILY KILLED.

BUT YOU WILL BE.

GUESS I WAS WRONG ABOUT YOU.

YES.

TO BE CONCLUDED...

NEXT > DO OR DIE! SEE YOU IN THIRTY!

MARVEL COMICS

GHOST RIDER

$1.50 US
$2.00 CAN
6
OCT
01317

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

PART 2 OF 2

TEXEIRA

WHEN INNOCENT BLOOD IS SPILLED, A SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE IS BORN, AND DANNY KETCH FINDS HIMSELF TRANSFORMED. STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

GHOST RIDER

DO or DIE!

MOMENTS AGO, GHOST RIDER AND THE PUNISHER WERE BATTLING EACH OTHER. EACH THOUGHT THE OTHER WAS SUPPLYING WEAPONS TO STREET KIDS.

THEY WERE BOTH WRONG.

NOW THEY ARE SURROUNDED BY **FLAG-SMASHER** AND HIS ULTIMATUM.

ANY IDEAS?

HOWARD MACKIE
WRITER

JAVIER SALTARES
PENCILER

MARK TEXEIRA
INKER

JANICE CHIANG
LETTERER

GREGORY WRIGHT
COLORIST

BOBBIE CHASE
EDITOR

TOM DeFALCO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

TCHINK

YES.

KRAK

NICE MOVE.

LESSENED THE ODDS A *BIT*.

CAN YOU DO ANYTHING *ELSE* WITH THAT THING?

MUCH.

WHOOSH

VRRRRR

ZZZZT

ENOUGH!

I DON'T WANT ANY OF YOU KILLED IN A *FUTILE* SKIRMISH WITH THESE *COSTUMED* BUFFOONS. LEAVE -- *NOW!*

GOOD FOR YOU, *FLAG SMASHER!*

NO NEED FOR THESE KIDS TO *DIE* JUST BECAUSE THEY HAD THE BAD LUCK TO LISTEN TO YOUR DRIVEL.

THE ONLY ONE WHO'S GOING TO DIE *TONIGHT* IS--

--YOU!

BUDDA BUDDA

WHERE THE--?

ABOVE.

AS *MUCH* AS I'D LIKE TO, PUNISHER, I REALLY CAN'T AFFORD THE *LUXURY* OF KILLING YOU *PERSONALLY*.

IN THE PAST, I'VE LET MY *EGO* GET THE BEST OF ME--AGAINST *CAPTAIN AMERICA*. THOSE ENCOUNTERS HAVE ONLY LED TO THE DELAY OF MY *ULTIMATE GOAL*.

NOW I WILL ASSUME THE SNEAKY *TACTICS* OF MY ENEMIES--THE *GOVERNMENTS OF THE WORLD*.

AND BY THE WAY... A SERIES OF SMALL *EXPLOSIONS* WILL BEGIN A FEW SECONDS FROM NOW. IT WILL LOOK LIKE A GAS MAIN EXPLOSION--WHICH, ULTIMATELY, IT WILL BE.

IN 20 SECONDS THIS ENTIRE WAREHOUSE AND ANY EVIDENCE THAT I WAS HERE WILL BE GONE--AS YOU WILL BE. GOODBYE.

KLOOM

THE PLACE IS COMING DOWN AROUND MY EARS.

NEVER GOING TO MAKE IT OUT ON--

--FOOT.

GET ON.

THE BIKE MOVES.

tKOOM

AND HE CAN HANDLE IT.

BOOM

BUT WILL IT BE FAST ENOUGH?

HEADING FOR THAT STEEL DOOR.

WE'LL BE CRUSHED.

FRIED OR CRUSHED. WHATEVER.

TCHICK

WE MADE IT.

BLKOOM

GOOD GOING. NOW WE'VE GOT TO GET HOLD OF ONE OF THOSE KIDS IF WE'RE TO *FIGURE OUT* FLAG-SMASHER'S PLAN.

AND THERE'S *ONE NOW.*

OH MAN! THEY'RE OUT! I COULDA' GOT AWAY WITH *EVERYONE* ELSE THROUGH THE *SEWERS--*

--BUT I HADDA BE *AFRAID* TO GO DOWN THERE. RATS AND THINGS.

NOW HOW AM I GONNA GET AWAY?

GOTTA GO THE *OTHER* WAY BEFORE THEY--

TIME TO ANSWER SOME QUESTIONS, SON.

WHERE IS FLAG-SMASHER?

I AIN'T SAYIN' *NOTHIN'*! I AIN'T AFRAID OF *YOU*. I'M JUST A *KID*! YOU AIN'T GONNA KILL *ME*!

YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS HAVE BEEN OFFING PEOPLE ALL OVER THE CITY. I WON'T THINK TWICE ABOUT WASTING YOU.

--HUH?

WHERE IS HE?

I CAN'T TELL YOU! HE'S CRAZY. HE'D KILL ME!

THERE ARE THINGS FAR WORSE THAN DEATH, BOY.

YOU'RE LYIN! I AIN'T AFRAID--

SOON...

NOOOOOOO!

WHERE, BOY? WHERE?

I-I-I'LL T-T-TELL YOU *WHATEVER* YOU WANT TO K-KNOW. JUST DON'T DO ANY

MAOOOOOORE!

SOON...

TOMORROW NIGHT! TOMORROW *NIGHT! WALL STREET!* EVERYBODY ALL AT ONCE! TONS OF *WEAPONS.* TONS OF *KIDS.* WE'RE GONNA WIPE OUT WALL STREET. HIT ALL THE BANKS... *EVERYTHING.* HE SAID WE'D BE TAKIN' WHAT'S BEEN KEPT FROM US.

YOU *BETTER* NOT BE *LYING, CARLOS,* OR OUR FRIEND WILL HAVE TO TAKE YOU FOR *ANOTHER* RIDE--

--AND YOU'LL GET *WORSE* FROM ME.

NO, NO, NO! I AIN'T LYING! TOMORROW NIGHT-- *I SWEAR!*

DAYBREAK...

SALEM FIELDS

FWOOSH

I CAN'T TAKE MUCH MORE OF THIS!

MY LIFE ISN'T MY OWN ANYMORE--

--IT BELONGS TO THE BIKE AND THE GHOST RIDER!

AND NOW I'M TIED UP WITH THE PUNISHER. HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE A CRIMINAL.

BUT THEN AGAIN SO IS THE GHOST RIDER.

NOTHING MAKES SENSE IN MY LIFE ANYMORE--

--THE BIKE LEAST OF ALL.

THE THINGS THAT IT DOES...

...I DON'T EVEN NEED TO FILL IT UP WITH GAS.

...EM FIELDS"

JEEZ! LOOK AT THE TIME! IF I DON'T HURRY I'LL BE LATE FOR WORK!

I'LL HAVE TO CALL MOM FROM THE CITY.

LATER...

LINDA WEI, REPORTING FROM THE CYPRESS HILLS SECTION OF BROOKLYN. THE APPARENT STAMPING GROUNDS OF THE GHOST RIDER.

PARK AVENUE SOUTH MESSENGER SERVICE

THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE FROM, KETCH! YA EVER SEE THE FLAMIN' HEADED CYCLE BUM?

NO, CLIFF, I DON'T BUY ANY OF IT.

HOW LONG CAN THE POLICE LET THIS CONTINUE!?

OUR SOURCES HAVE FOUND WITNESSES THAT CLAIM TO HAVE SEEN BOTH THE GHOST RIDER, AND THE KNOWN CRIMINAL, THE PUNISHER, LEAVING THE SITE OF THIS WAREHOUSE MOMENTS BEFORE IT EXPLODED.

"POLICE SOURCES CLAIM THEY ARE CURRENTLY SEEKING BOTH INDIVIDUALS FOR QUESTIONING."

POLICE

YO, KETCH! I THOUGHT THE ONLY THING THAT CYPRESS HILLS WAS KNOWN FOR WAS THE CEMETERIES. LOOKS LIKE YA GOT PLENTY OF ACTION IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD NOW.

YEAH... RIGHT.

HI, MOM, IT'S ME!

DANIEL? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? I WAS SO WORRIED WHEN YOU DIDN'T COME HOME LAST NIGHT.

I'M FINE, MOM! YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY SO MUCH--

IT'S TERRIBLE. THE McCANN WAREHOUSE BLEW UP LAST NIGHT. SUCH THINGS ARE HAPPENING. I KNOW YOU'RE 18, AND I DON'T WANT TO TELL YOU WHAT TO DO, BUT AFTER WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR SISTER...

MOM, HOW'S BARB DOING? ANY IMPROVEMENTS?

THE DOCTOR SAYS SHE SEEMS TO BE STABILIZING, BUT THAT THEY HAVE TO KEEP A CLOSE WATCH ON THE PNEUMONIA. ARE YOU COMING TO SEE HER TONIGHT?

UH... I CAN'T TONIGHT, MOM. I HAVE THINGS TO TAKE CARE OF...

DANIEL, IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE YOU'VE VISITED HER.

I HAVE TO GO, MOM. I'LL TALK TO YOU LATER.

LATER THAT NIGHT...

DO YOURSELF A FAVOR, BUDDY, GET YOURSELF A HELMET AND SOON. NOT ONLY WILL YOU SAVE YOURSELF A TON OF BUCKS IN TICKETS. BUT YOU'LL SAVE YOUR HEAD, TOO!

YES, SIR.

POLICE

I'M SURPRISED I DIDN'T GET PULLED OVER SOONER.

HE'S RIGHT ABOUT MY HEAD-- GHOST RIDER MAY BE INVULNERABLE, BUT I'M NOT.

TRAFFIC CITATION

I SPEND SO MUCH TIME ON THE BIKE THESE DAYS, I FEEL LIKE I'M USING IT *AND* THE GHOST RIDER AS AN ESCAPE--

--AND IN THE PROCESS I'M AVOIDING ALL THE PEOPLE IN MY LIFE WHO CARE FOR ME. *ESPECIALLY* BARB.

BUT I FEEL WEIRD TALKING TO HER WHILE SHE LIES THERE IN HER COMA.

SO I JUST DRIVE AROUND WAITING FOR THE TRANSFORM--

WHOOSH

I RIDE AGAIN.

THE WORLD TRADE CENTER...

THE KID WASN'T LYING.

THE YUPPIE'S TRACKS ARE BARELY COLD AND FLAG SMASHER'S CREW HAS MOVED IN.

I TOLD THE GHOST RIDER TO MEET ME HERE IF HE WANTED IN ON THIS. HE PROBABLY COULD'VE HELPED.

1 HOUR PHOTO

CAN'T WAIT FOR HIM ANY LONGER. ULTIMATUM IS SUPPLYING THOSE KIDS WITH MORE WEAPONS THAN SOME THIRD WORLD NATIONS HAVE ACCESS TO...

snak

I'VE GOT TO KEEP THEM CONTAINED TO THIS SECTION OF THE CITY--

DANGER

GRENADES

AMMO

RIFLES

--IT'S RELATIVELY DESERTED. THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO HURT ANYONE--

--BUT THEMSELVES.

U-1 TO F-1. WE HAVE A GO. *REPEAT.* WE HAVE A GO!

AT THAT MOMENT...

ELEVEN DORSAL FINS CUT THROUGH THE BLACK WATERS OF UPPER NEW YORK BAY.

INCREASING SPEED, THEY HEAD TOWARD BATTERY PARK.

WHAT THE...?

I HOPE IT AIN'T THEM GILL-BREATHIN' ATLANTEANS *AGAIN*--

--LOST MY TOUR GUIDE JOB LAST TIME THEY *ATTACKED*.

LIKE IT WAS *MY* FAULT OR SOMETHIN'.

O'TOOLE. KREMNIK. TAKE THE POINT.

LARSEN. HUANG. PULL UP THE REAR.

I WANT THIS TO GO BY THE *NUMBERS* AS PLANNED.

FRANZ, I WANT YOU WITH ME AT ALL TIMES. THE EMPG'S * WE'RE CARRYING ARE VITAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THIS OPERATION.

YES, FLAG-SMASHER!

OUR YOUNG ANARCHISTIC PROTEGÉS SHOULD BE WELL ON THEIR WAY TO WREAKING HAVOC--

*ELECTRO MAGNETIC PULSE GENERATORS.--BOBBIE

--THIS WILL BE THE BEGINNING OF A WORLD WIDE MOVEMENT TO TOPPLE THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE WORLD.

WE WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPLY INNER CITY YOUTHS THROUGHOUT THIS COUNTRY WITH THE NECESSARY TOOLS TO RISE UP AGAINST THE CAPITALIST INSTITUTIONS THAT PROVIDE THE FUEL FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

SO, GENTLEMEN, OUR FIRST STEP TOWARD THE FINANCIAL COLLAPSE OF THE UNITED STATES IS THE ERASING OF THE DATA BANKS KEPT ON--

BUT MORE IS NEEDED TO OVERTHROW THIS AND OTHER NATIONS THAN ACTS OF TERRORISM AND REVOLUTION. WE MUST CUT THE PURSE STRINGS THAT HOLD THEM TOGETHER. TAKE AWAY THE PAPER AND ELECTRONIC MONEY WHICH SYMBOLIZE ITS WEALTH, AND THE REST WILL FOLLOW.

--THE COMPUTERS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE BANK.

LET'S DO THE BANKS FIRST!

YEAH! GET SOME CASH!

YOU HAVE THE WEAPONS FLAG-SMASHER PROMISED. THE REST IS UP TO YOU!

YOU CAN DO IT! IT IS YOURS!

TAKE IT ALL!

NO.

YOU? YOU SURVIVED THE WAREHOUSE EXPLOSION?

I WILL NOT LET YOU TURN MORE OF THESE CHILDREN INTO MURDERERS.

AT HEART THEY ALREADY ARE, MY FRIEND.

SHOW HIM! KILL HIM!

OOF

WHUSH

ARGH

YOU DO NOT YET DESERVE THE FULL EXTENT OF MY VENGEANCE--

--PRAY THAT THIS IS THE WORST YOU WILL RECEIVE FROM ME.

A BULLET THROUGH THE CRANIUM SHOULD SHOW US WHAT HE IS HIDING BEHIND THAT MASK!

SAVED HIS LIFE.

MAYBE.

BUDDA BUDDA

DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHO OR WHAT THIS GHOST RIDER IS, BUT HE DOESN'T SEEM LIKE THE TYPE TO SEND THANK-YOU NOTES.

DOESN'T MATTER. AS LONG AS HE DOESN'T GIVE ME ANY REASON TO PUT HIM AWAY, WE'LL GET ALONG JUST FINE.

NOT THAT I KNOW HOW I'D TAKE HIM OUT--BUT I'D FIND A WAY.

YOU HAVE TILL THE COUNT OF TWO.

WHERE'S FLAG-SMASHER?

TCHINK

SHUNK

KILL ME! I AM NOT AFRAID TO DIE FOR THE CAUSE!

DEATH WILL BE A LONG TIME COMING.

S.W.A.T.

CAPTAIN, THIS IS THE THIRD GROUP WE'VE ROUNDED UP. THEY'VE ALL GIVEN UP PRETTY EASILY CONSIDERING HOW MUCH FIREPOWER THEY'RE CARRYING!

POLICE

SOMETHIN' TOOK THE WIND OUT OF THEIR SAILS.

CAPTAIN, LOOK!

THE PUNISHER AND THE GHOST RIDER!

WE CAN'T PURSUE THEM NOW. WE'VE GOT TO KEEP ROUNDING UP THESE KIDS.

I'LL RADIO IN FOR SOME UNITS TO TRY AND INTERCEPT THEM DOWNTOWN.

MEANWHILE...

FINISH THEM OFF QUICKLY!

STOP HIM BEFORE WE ARE FURTHER DELAYED.

BRRRP

...OFFICER DOWN. OFFICER NEEDS ASSISTANCE. CORNER OF--

EXCELLENT. NOW IF WE MAY CONTINUE...

KRAK-KOOM

WHAT? O'TOOLE?!!

WE'VE GOT TO GET THEM DOWN OFF THOSE SLEDS.

DO YOU THINK THAT CHAIN OF YOURS CAN REACH THEM?

YES.

JUST TRY AND LEAVE FLAG-SMASHER FOR ME.

I WILL TRY.

TCHINK FWOOSH

KREMNICK!

KRRR

THE MORTAL THINKS THAT HE MUST GIVE ME INSTRUCTIONS--

--VENGEANCE WILL BE METED OUT BY MY HANDS--

TCHINK

--AND THESE HI-TECH TOYS--

COOSH

--WILL NOT--

TCHINK CLIK

--STAND IN MY WAY.

WITHRAM

THAT WAS LARSEN. THEY TOOK OUT HUANG A FEW BLOCKS BACK.

IT'S JUST THE TWO OF US, SIR, BUT I THINK WE LOST HIM!

YES, SIR! INCREASING ALTITUDE. HE'D HAVE TO BE ABLE TO FLY TO REACH -- HUH?

GOOD!

LET'S KEEP IN TIGHT AND ATTAIN MAXIMUM ALTITUDE.

HACK

BOOM BOOM

ONCE AGAIN MY PLANS HAVE BEEN DELAYED.

WHOOOF

TODAY, AT LEAST, SOMEONE WILL *DIE* FOR THIS INTERFERENCE!

KRAK-KOOM

HE BLEW UP THE BIKE--

--I WAS BEGINNING TO THINK IT COULDN'T BE DONE.

KRAK

TOO BAD FOR THE GHOST RIDER--

--WORSE FOR FLAG SMASHER!

SOME HEAVY DUTY STUFF--

FIGURED THAT THEY WERE WEARING SOME SORT OF ARMOR. MOST OF HIS MEN WALKED AWAY FROM THE SLED CRASHES.

--BETTER THAN MY KEVLAR.

FOOL! DID YOU THINK YOUR PUNY WEAPON COULD PENETRATE MY BODY ARMOR?

IT'S THE BEST THAT A.I.M.* COULD SUPPLY!

*ADVANCED IDEA MECHANICS.--BOBBIE

THIS VEHICLE CANNOT BE DESTROYED.

IT IS MINE TO COMMAND.

AND I COMMAND--

FWOOSH

--THAT VENGEANCE BE SERVED.

NOW, FLAG SMASHER--

TCHINK

--IT IS TIME TO STRIP YOU OF YOUR ARMOR.

TIME FOR YOU TO FEEL THE PAIN THAT YOU HAVE INFLICTED IN THE NAME OF YOUR CAUSE.

FEEL YOUR SOUL, YOUR MIND. AND YOUR BODY BE TORN ASUNDER BY MY PENANCE STARE.

WAK

NONE OF THEM IN CHARGE. ALL VYING FOR CONTROL--

--THIS IS ANARCHY.

THIS IS PAIN.

NICE TRICK.

N-N-N-NO...

THIS IS THE ONLY THING THAT'S GOING TO PUT AN END TO HIS VIOLENCE--HIS CAUSE.

IMPRESSIVE. BUT HE'S A POLITICAL FANATIC. YOU'RE NOT GOING TO STOP HIM FROM GOING ON WITH HIS FANATICISM WITH YOUR PENANCE STARE. HE'LL SHAKE IT OFF AND GO BACK TO KILLING IN THE NAME OF HIS CAUSE, TURN KIDS INTO KILLERS IN THE NAME OF THE CAUSE, ANYTHING FOR THE CAUSE.

KRAK KRAAK

MY CAUSE IS VENGEANCE--NOT DEATH. WHAT CAUSE DO YOU SERVE?

I WASN'T COUNTING ON A SHOWDOWN WITH HIM.

NOT TODAY.

WHOOOO

POLICE.

GET ON.

THEY'RE HEADING STRAIGHT FOR THE--

WE'VE GOT THEM!

--RIVER!!?

LET'S GET SOME COFFEE.

WHAT ARE THE CHANCES THAT I CAN GET ONE OF THESE BIKES?

...

I THOUGHT SO!

NEXT ISSUE:

FROM THE PAGES OF CAPTAIN AMERICA & IRON MAN

SCARECROW

AND THE RETURN OF

BLACKOUT!

MARVEL COMICS

GHOST RIDER

$1.50 US
$2.00 CAN
7
NOV
CC 01317

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

TRAIL OF BLOOD . . .

TEXEIRA

. . . TRAIL OF TEARS!

WHEN INNOCENT BLOOD IS SPILLED, A SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE IS BORN, AND DANNY KETCH FINDS HIMSELF TRANSFORMED. STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

GHOST RIDER

Obsession

CREEDMOOR PSYCHIATRIC CENTER, QUEENS, NEW YORK. TWO MONTHS AGO . . .

THEY'RE NOT AFRAID.

THEY SHOULD BE.

HOWARD MACKIE WRITER • MARK TEXEIRA ARTIST • JANICE CHIANG LETTERER • GREGORY WRIGHT COLORIST • BOBBIE CHASE EDITOR • TOM DeFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

HE'S GOT *ANOTHER* ONE, DOC!

TAKE IT *EASY*, THERE, BUDDY. NO ONE'S GOING TO *HURT* YOU.

HURT ME?

NOW, *EBENEZER*, HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU THAT THIS SORT OF BEHAVIOR IS HINDERING YOUR PROGRESS?

YOUR LAWYERS HAD YOU RELEASED FROM THAT *OTHER* PLACE SO THAT YOU COULD BE TREATED *HERE*. BUT IN ORDER FOR US TO HELP YOU, YOU HAVE TO GIVE UP THIS *DANGER-OUS* MASQUERADE.

NICE NECK, DOCTOR CHANEY. WONDER WHAT YOU'RE MADE OF-- INSIDE?

YOU'RE *WASTIN'* YOUR BREATH, DOC!

THE LIGHTS ARE ON, BUT NOBODY'S HOME! HE JUST KEEPS STARIN' OUT THAT WINDOW LIKE SOMEONE'S GONNA *RESCUE* HIM OR SOMETHIN'!

YOU, TOO, McGILL! I'VE GOT TO SEE WHAT'S INSIDE YOU-- INSIDE YOU ALL.

I *WON'T* HAVE YOU TALKING LIKE THAT IN FRONT OF THE PATIENTS, *DONNY!*

THEY *ALL* DESERVE OUR *RESPECT* AND OUR *HELP.*

AND THE WAY YOU CAN BEST HELP HIM IS TO FIND OUT *WHERE* HE KEEPS GETTING THESE *MASKS!*

GOODBYE.

BUT COME BACK SOON--

--I'LL BE WAITING!

THE PRESENT...

ESCAPE

EBENEZER LAUGHTON, ALSO KNOWN AS THE **SCARECROW**, IS STILL AT LARGE AFTER HIS **DARING** AND **BLOODY** ESCAPE FROM CREEDMOOR PSYCHIATRIC CENTER LESS THAN TWO MONTHS AGO.

CRIMINAL ??

YOU MAY RECALL THAT LAUGHTON, A KNOWN **CONTORTIONIST**, SLIPPED HIS CELL, AND BEFORE ESCAPING, **DISEMBOWELED** A DOCTOR AND TWO ORDERLIES.

POLICE ARE CURRENTLY INVESTIGATING THE POSSIBILITY THAT IT IS LAUGHTON, AND **NOT** THE GHOST RIDER, BEHIND THE **CHILD ABDUCTIONS** WHICH ARE **CONTINUING** IN THE BROOKLYN/QUEENS AREA.

POLICE SOURCES SAY THAT THE SCARECROW HAS BEEN LINKED WITH THE **RECENT** MURDER OF A BROOKLYN HEIGHTS RESIDENT FOUND HANGING FROM A LAMP-POST LAST NIGHT--

--THIS M.O. APPEARS TO COINCIDE WITH LAUGHTON'S LAST KNOWN CRIMINAL ACTIVITY.*

UNCONFIRMED RUMORS SAY THAT THIS BODY WAS **ALSO** DISEMBOWELED AND **STUFFED** WITH STRAW.

*CAPTAIN AMERICA #280.--BOBBIE

POLICE **CLAIM** TO BE STEPPING UP THEIR SEARCH FOR THE SCARECROW.

LEWIS

SALE

THIS IS **LINDA WEI** FOR THE ELEVEN O'CLOCK NEWS SAYING--

--BE **CAREFUL** OUT THERE!

VVVROOOM

THE DENIZENS OF THE DARK PARTS OF THE CITY DO NOT FRIGHTEN EASILY--

--LONG AGO THEY STOPPED BELIEVING IN THE EASTER BUNNY, SANTA CLAUS AND THE BOGEY MAN.

RUMORS ON THE STREET SAY THAT THE FLAMING-HEADED MOTORCYCLE RIDER CAN FREEZE YOUR SOUL WITH A STARE.

THE RUMORS ARE RIGHT.

BUT THE GHOST RIDER WAS NOT REBORN TO FRIGHTEN PEOPLE--

--HIS IS A MISSION OF VENGEANCE.

A MISSION OF PAIN.

THE GHOST RIDER FEELS NO PAIN, FOR HE IS NOT HUMAN--

--BUT DAN KETCH...?

HE FEELS MORE PAIN THAN ANY PERSON SHOULD BEAR.

THE PAIN BROUGHT ON BY THE TRANSFORMATION INTO THE DEMON-CREATURE.

THE PAIN OF THE OFTEN HORRIFIC PUNISHMENT THE GHOST RIDER INFLICTS ON HIS VICTIMS.

AND THE PAIN OF WATCHING HIS SISTER LIE IN A COMA AT A NEARBY HOSPITAL.

DAN KETCH'S LIFE IS FILLED WITH PAIN.

THERE IS NO ESCAPE.

HOURS LATER...

TIME TO RE-ESTABLISH OUR SOCIAL LIFE, DAN!

--WE'RE GOING OUT TONIGHT!

--WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT!

I DON'T KNOW, STACY, I'VE GOT THINGS...

NOTHING BETTER BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN ME, DAN!

NOW OUT!

GOODBYE, KIDS! HAVE FUN!

DON'T WORRY, MRS. KETCH! I'LL MAKE SURE OF IT!

YOU'RE A GOOD GIRL, STACY. THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT DANIEL NEEDS.

EVER SINCE BARB WAS HURT, HE'S CHANGED. HE DOESN'T DO ANYTHING ANYMORE. HE HASN'T EVEN BEEN TO SEE BARB IN WEEKS. AND HE'S ALWAYS WITH THAT MOTORCYCLE. I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE HE GOT IT!

DON'T WORRY, HE'S IN PERFECT HANDS!

COME ON, KIDDO! HOP IN!

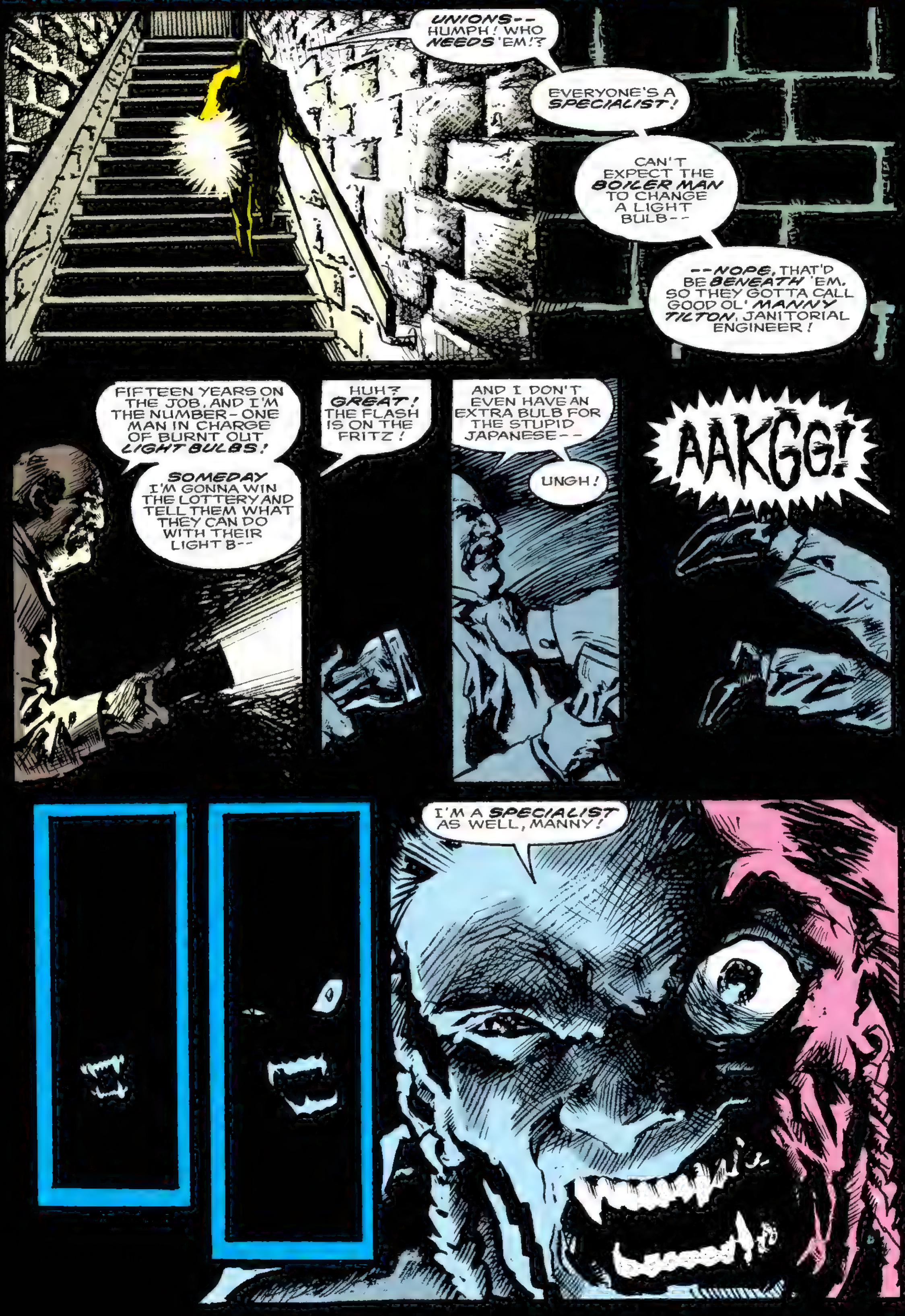
I'D RATHER TAKE MY BIKE!

NO WAY! I'M NOT DAMAGING MY KIDNEYS ON THAT DEATH TRAP. WHY DON'T YOU GET RID OF IT, DAN? IT'S DANGEROUS RIDING A MOTORCYCLE IN THE CITY.

I'M NOT GETTING RID OF THE BIKE FOR YOU, MY MOTHER, OR ANYONE ELSE!

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO RIDE ON IT-- FINE. LET'S JUST GO.

N.Y.U. MEDICAL CENTER



BROOKLYN HEIGHTS...

I'M SORRY FOR BLOWING UP AT YOU BEFORE, STACY.

FORGIVE ME?

OF COURSE.

I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN UNDER A LOT OF STRESS. BUT YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE HELP TO ANYONE UNLESS YOU LEARN TO RELAX.

YOU KNOW, THE FOOD HERE IS BETTER THAN I EXPECTED!

YOUR MOM COULD REALLY USE YOUR SUPPORT, DAN. SHE NEEDS YOU TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL WITH HER--

I'M SURPRISED WE DIDN'T DISCOVER THIS PLACE BEFORE! WE MUST'VE WALKED RIGHT PAST IT A MILLION TIMES--

WILL YOU STOP TALKING ABOUT THE FOOD!

THIS IS SERIOUS! YOU'VE GOT TO STOP BLAMING YOURSELF FOR WHAT HAPPENED THAT NIGHT IN THE CEMETERY!

TALK TO ME, DAN! WHY ARE YOU HOLDING BACK FROM ME? WHAT ARE YOU HIDING?

I'M NOT HIDING ANYTHING, STACE. IT JUST ALL FEELS SO WEIRD!

YOU'VE GOT TO TALK ABOUT IT WITH SOMEONE, OR JUST LET IT GO!

AND YOU'VE GOT TO START SEEING BARB AGAIN. SHE'S MORE THAN JUST YOUR SISTER-- SHE'S YOUR BEST FRIEND!

LET'S GO SEE HER TONIGHT. WHAT DO YOU SAY?

I GUESS... YEAH... SURE.

SUNSET. A FEW BLOCKS AWAY...

WHERE ARE YOU, CAPTAIN AMERICA?

WHY HAVEN'T YOU STOPPED ME AGAIN?

"O CAPTAIN, MY CAPTAIN" BEFORE MY "FEARFUL TRIP IS DONE."

STOP ME!

FEAR ME.

FEAR WHAT IS INSIDE OF ME.

INSIDE ALL OF US.

FEAR WHAT I MUST DO.

THE FEARFUL THING MUST BE RELEASED FROM EVERYONE. OLD AND --

--YOUNG!

SO, CAPTAIN AMERICA, IF YOU WON'T STOP ME TONIGHT--

--ANOTHER EXAMPLE MUST BE MADE.

OH, MY LORD!

HELP!

ONE HOUR LATER...

DAN! THE POLICE!

LET'S SEE IF WE CAN GET CLOSER!

POLICE

GEEK!!

OH, MY...

A BABY, DAN! A BABY!

WHAT KIND OF SICK MIND COULD DO SUCH A THING?

C'MON, STACE, LET'S GO!

ALL THE BLOOD!

SO YOUNG AND INNOCENT, I SHOULD HAVE THE BIKE NOW! THE GHOST RIDER WOULD AVENGE THIS--

WHAT AM I THINKING? I'M BUYING INTO THIS WHOLE SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE THING.

STACE WAS RIGHT. I CAN'T TALK ABOUT IT WITH ANYONE SO I JUST HAVE TO LET IT GO. CAN'T BUY INTO THE OBSESSION WITH VENGEANCE.

ALL UNITS! ALL UNITS! WE'VE TRAILED THIS SCARECROW CHARACTER TO A TWO BLOCK AREA--

--WE'RE SEALING OFF THE AREA NOW AND PREPARING FOR A BUILDING-TO-BUILDING SEARCH. OVER.

WHAT THE--?

THE *BIKE!* HOW'D IT GET *HERE?*

IT MUST HAVE *SENSED* THE INNOCENT BLOOD.

I FEEL THE *PULL*-- THE *NEED*-- TO RIDE THE BIKE--

--TO BECOME *HIM* AGAIN!

DAN, DO YOU BELIEVE IT--?

DAN?

BARB WOULD *UNDERSTAND.* SO WOULD STACY IF I TOLD HER *EVERYTHING.*

THE GHOST RIDER IS *NEEDED!*

I CAN'T FIGHT IT!

IF THE SCARECROW IS BEHIND ALL THE *KIDNAPPINGS* THAT ARE GOING ON, HE HAS TO BE *STOPPED*--

DANNY!

NO MATTER *WHAT!*

MEANWHILE--

AH, SWEET DARKNESS HAS FALLEN.

MEDICA

BUT NOT DARK ENOUGH--

AMBULANCE

HOSPITAL

--YET.

EXIT

9TH FLOOR

WELL, FIND MANNY NOW! EVERY SINGLE LIGHT ON THE INTENSIVE CARE WARD IS OUT, AND I WANT THEM BACK!

DARKNESS HAS ALWAYS CLOAKED MY BODY AND MY SOUL--

--AND IT WAS ALWAYS GOOD.

YES, ALL THE MACHINES ARE STILL WORKING, BUT WE CAN'T SEE OUR NOSES IN FRONT OF OUR FACES! FIND MANNY!

NOW DARKNESS IS NEEDED TO CLOAK MY FACE.

MY BEAUTIFUL FACE.

MY FACE!

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF YOUR BROTHER'S HANDIWORK, BARBARA?

RMMMMMMBBBBLE

OH, NO! WE DON'T NEED THIS *TONIGHT!*

I WANT HIM STOPPED-- *HERE!*

NOT ONE MAN IS TO BREAK RANKS-- *UNDERSTOOD?*

OUT OF MY WAY! I MEAN *YOU* NO HARM--

-- BUT THE *CHILD-KILLER* MUST PAY FOR THE *INNOCENT BLOOD* THAT HAS BEEN SPILLED.

WORDS. THEY COME SO EASILY.

AND THE *SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE* WILL NOT BE STOPPED.

THERE AIN'T *ANYTHING* ABOUT THAT GUY THAT I UNDERSTAND!

*THE SAME WORDS I HAVE MOUTHED SINCE MY **REBIRTH** IN THE JUNKYARD.*

*BUT **WHAT** DO THEY MEAN?*

WHO AM I?

*I HAVE NO **ANSWERS.** ONLY MORE **QUESTIONS**--*

*--AND AN **INSATIABLE** DESIRE TO ACT.*

ALL UNITS! THE GHOST RIDER IS MOVING INTO THE CONTAINMENT AREA!

*WELL, **STOP** HIM--*

--'CAUSE WE'VE FINALLY **PINNED DOWN** THE SCARECROW AND I DON'T WANT TO LOSE 'IM!

WHERE ARE YOU, CAPTAIN? DON'T YOU WANT TO **BASH** ME WITH YOUR **SHIELD**?

THOUGH ALL THE SHIELD BASHING IN THE **WORLD** COULD NOT **DISLODGE** THE **FEARFUL THING** WHICH IS INSIDE OF ME!

COME, MY CAPTAIN!

ZAP

BOOM

CORRECT THAT LAST TRANSMISSION. WE NOW HAVE THE SCARECROW **AND** THE GHOST RIDER ON TOP OF THE ROOF.

WONDERFUL.

YOUR KILLING RAMPAGE WILL BE STOPPED NOW!

MORE WORDS.

NOT BY **YOU**, SKULL-MAN!

KILL, MY PETS! FEAST ON HIS **BONES**!

WAK

ENOUGH!

TCHNK

WHSSSSK

YOU MUST BE MADE TO **SUFFER** AS YOU HAVE MADE **OTHERS** SUFFER--

*THE SAME WORDS **OVER** AND **OVER** AGAIN.*

--YOU MUST FEEL THEIR **PAIN**.

HOLY--

I *DON'T* BELIEVE MY FREAKIN' EYES!

RADIO IN THAT THEY'RE HEADIN' TOWARDS THE RIVER.

LET'S GET SOME UNITS OVER THERE PRONTO--

--FOR ALL THE GOOD IT'LL DO!

WHY DID YOU DO *THAT*?

NOW CAPTAIN AMERICA WILL *NEVER* FIND ME!

THE CHAIN IS *TIGHT*--

--BUT NOT--

--TIGHT *ENOUGH*!

NO!

YOU MUST FEEL THE PAIN OF MY *PENANCE STARE!*

FEEL THE PAIN OF YOUR--

--VICTIMS!

NOT *TONIGHT*, PHANTOM!

TONIGHT *ALL* I CAN FEEL IS THE FEARFUL THING INSIDE OF ME.

I'LL LOOK YOU UP SOME OTHER TIME--

--IF CAPTAIN AMERICA FAILS--

--TO STOP ME TONIGHT!

NO!

RRiPP

VENGEANCE MUST BE SERVED!

WHY?

WHAT IS THE *FORCE* THAT DRIVES ME?

N.Y.U. MEDICAL CENTER...

YOUR BROTHER HAS BROUGHT ME TO THIS, SWEETNESS.

HE AND THAT ABOMINATION HE BECOMES.

OH, HE THINKS THAT HIS LITTLE SECRET IS SAFE WITH YOU.

BUT I AM MASTER OF THE SHADOWS AND DARKNESS--

I'VE FOLLOWED HIM TO THE CEMETERY NEAR YOUR DREARY LITTLE HOME--

--AND WATCHED HIM UNDERGO THE TRANSFORMATION INTO THE HIDEOUS MOTORCYCLE RIDING CREATURE.

BUT HE GETS TO REVERT BACK TO HIS PRETTY FACE.

I DON'T HAVE THAT CHOICE.

I CAN NEVER HAVE MY BEAUTIFUL FACE BACK.

MY FACE AND MY LIFE HAVE BEEN MUTILATED BY YOUR DEMON-BROTHER.

AND I MEAN TO SEE THAT HE IS PAID IN KIND.

HIS LIFE WILL BECOME A REEKING WOUND SURROUNDING HIM.

EVERYTHING THAT HE LOVES--EVERYONE--WILL BE TAKEN FROM HIM--

--BEGINNING WITH YOU, DEAREST BARBARA.

THAT MORNING...

RRRRING

HELLO.

DAN SOB... COME QUICK...

LATER...

HOSPITAL ZONE

N.Y.U. MEDICAL CENTER

NO!

I SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE. I'M SO SORRY, MOM.

SO SORRY.

I SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE.

I SHOULD HAVE...

OH, DANIEL...

DAN, THERE WAS NOTHING YOU COULD HAVE DONE. NOTHING ANYONE COULD HAVE DONE AGAINST A MANIAC LIKE THAT.

SHE'S RIGHT, DANIEL! IF YOU'D BEEN HERE... I MIGHT HAVE LOST YOU BOTH... THEN WHAT WOULD I HAVE DONE!?

I COULD HAVE DONE SOMETHING...

DANIEL.

--AND I'M GOING TO--NOW!

THAT NIGHT IN BROOKLYN HEIGHTS...

OH, MY CAPTAIN, YOU SO DISAPPOINT ME.

THE FEARFUL THING IS RISING AGAIN.

SEEKING ITS ILK IN OTHERS--

--AND YOU ARE NOT HERE TO PREVENT IT.

RROOAR

YOU AGAIN?

DIDN'T YOU UNDERSTAND ME?

--I WANT CAPTAIN AMERICA!

YOU WANT TO SPILL MORE BLOOD.

KAROK

AND THIS CANNOT BE ALLOWED.

I FEEL RAGE. MORE THAN I'VE FELT SINCE MY REBIRTH.

YOU CAN'T STOP ME WITHOUT KILLING ME!

CAPTAIN AMERICA WOULD NEVER KILL ME--

--THAT'S JUST NOT HIS STYLE!

SWISH

BUT I KNOW THE FEARFUL THING IS INSIDE HIM. INSIDE US ALL.

I PLAN ON TEARING HIM OPEN AND SHOWING IT TO HIM.

SHOWING IT TO THE WORLD.

TCHINK

I WILL NOT KILL YOU EITHER, SCARECROW--

--BUT I WILL STOP YOU AND MAKE YOU FEEL THE PAIN.

CLNK

PAIN?

WHAT PAIN COULD YOU POSSIBLY SHOW ME, GHOST RIDER?

THE FEARFUL THING GNAWS AT MY INSIDES EVERY DAY UNTIL IT WORKS ITS WAY OUT.

UNTIL IT DEVOURS OTHERS.

KRUP

YOU MUST SUFFER THE PAIN--

JUSTICE BY MY HANDS--

--BY MY PENANCE STARE.

PA-M

THOSE WORDS AGAIN. STILL THE MEANING ELUDES ME?

HA!

YOU HAVE NO EARS, SO YOU CAN'T *HEAR!*

I CAN'T SUFFER FROM *YOURS* OR *ANYONE* ELSE'S PAIN. I CAN ONLY BE STOPPED BY DEATH.

IF NOT BY THE *HANDS* OF CAPTAIN AMERICA OR YOURS--

--THEN BY MY *OWN!*

I BARELY HEAR HIS WORDS.

LOST IN THE QUEST FOR MY OWN ANSWERS.

HIS BODY FLIES TOWARD HIS PITCHFORK--

--TOWARDS JUSTICE?

Ugph!

JUSTICE. VENGEANCE.

VRRROOAR!

MINUTES PASS...

SALEM FIELDS

TWO DAYS LATER...

IT SEEMS RIGHT THAT IT SHOULD END HERE WHERE IT ALL STARTED, BARB.

IT SEEMS LIKE OUR LIVES HAVE ALWAYS EVOLVED AROUND THIS CEMETERY. IT'S OVER FOR YOU NOW. BUT IT'S JUST BEGINNING FOR ME. I LET YOU DOWN TWICE. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN AT THE HOSPITAL. MAYBE I COULD HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE. I'LL NEVER KNOW. BUT FROM NOW ON...

SOMETHING NEW HAS BEEN RELEASED INSIDE THE *GHOST RIDER*-- I CAN SENSE IT. I FEEL AS THOUGH I'M ABOUT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HIM--AND ABOUT MYSELF.

PAYBACK HAS JUST BEGUN. WHATEVER I DO FROM NOW ON, IT'LL BE FOR YOU--

--GOODBYE. I LOVE YOU.

THE END.

MARVEL COMICS

©90 MARVEL ENT GROUP INC

$1.50 US
$2.00 CAN
8
DEC
CC 01317
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

GHOST RIDER®

LIVING NIGHTMARE!

JAVIER SALTARES 90'

WHEN INNOCENT BLOOD IS SPILLED, A SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE IS BORN, AND DANNY KETCH FINDS HIMSELF TRANSFORMED. STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

GHOST RIDER
LIVING NIGHTMARE

HOWARD MACKIE WRITER • JAVIER SALTARES PENCILER • MARK TEXEIRA INKER • JANICE CHIANG LETTERER • GREGORY WRIGHT COLORIST • BOBBIE CHASE EDITOR • TOM DeFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

NO!

I DON'T *NEED* YOU! I DON'T NEED THE *MOTORCYCLE!*

AND I DON'T *WANT* EITHER OF YOU IN MY LIFE *ANYMORE!*..

ALL YOU'VE BROUGHT IS *SORROW* AND *PAIN!*

NEED? WANT?

YOU THINK THAT *EITHER* OF US HAS A *CHOICE*, DAN?

THERE ARE FAR *GREATER FORCES* AT WORK HERE THAN EITHER OF US HAS *CONTROL* OVER, BOY.

I DIDN'T BRING THE SORROW AND PAIN INTO YOUR LIFE--

--IT WAS THERE, AND YOU NEEDED ME TO *DEAL* WITH IT!

AND I CAME.

OUR FATES WERE SEALED THE *MOMENT* YOU PUT YOUR *BLOOD-STAINED* HANDS ON THE MOTORCYCLE THAT NIGHT IN THE JUNKYARD.

WITHOUT ME AND THE MOTORCYCLE YOU SO ABHOR, YOUR SISTER WOULD HAVE *DIED* THAT NIGHT!

BUT SHE DIED *ANYWAY!* YOU DIDN'T *HELP* HER!

YOU DIDN'T LET ME. YOU FIGHT ME *TOO MUCH!*

STOP RESISTING THE *TRANSFORMATION*--

--YOU *CAN'T* RUN FROM IT, *OR* ME, FOREVER--

--*WE ARE ONE!*

NEVER.

THERE... PEOPLE...THEY CAN HELP ME GET RID OF YOU.

DON'T BE A *FOOL!*

IT'S TRUE THAT THEY'LL HELP YOU RID YOURSELF OF ME.

BUT THEY'LL TAKE *PLENTY* MORE AWAY FROM YOU IF YOU LET THEM.

STAY *AWAY* FROM THEM, DAN. *PLEASE.*

DON'T BEG, *DEMON*, IT DOESN'T BECOME YOU.

CAN'T YOU HEAR ME? I NEED *HELP--!*

HELP! HELP ME!

MEAU

BARB?!

YOU'RE STILL ALIVE?

INTERRUPTING ME *AGAIN*, BOY?!

CAN'T YOU SEE THAT YOUR *SISTER* AND I ARE TRYING TO *WED*?

IF ANYONE CAN STATE WHY THESE TWO SHOULD NOT BE JOINED IN WEDDED BLISS, LET THEM SPEAK NOW OR *FOREVER* HOLD THEIR PEACE.

HE KILLED HER!

THAT'S *RIGHT*, DANNY!

AND I'LL KEEP DOING SO EVERY NIGHT OF YOUR LIFE. HER *BLOOD* WILL BE IN *MY* MOUTH AND ON *YOUR* HANDS. AND I'LL KEEP COMING.

YOU DID THIS TO MY *FACE*. SO I'M GOING TO HURT SO MANY PEOPLE AROUND YOU THAT YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO STAND TO LOOK AT YOUR *OWN* FACE.

YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO *TALK* TO ANYONE, DANNO, FOR *FEAR* THAT I MIGHT *KILL* THEM!

AND YOU'D BE *RIGHT*.

LET ME *HELP* YOU, DAN. *JOIN ME* AND WE CAN STOP HIM, AND *ALL* LIKE HIM.

LISTEN TO HIM, *SON*. DO AS HE SAYS. FOR ME.

DAD?

I'LL *JOIN* YOU, DEMON--

--BUT ON *MY* TERMS!

WOOSH

I WANT SOME CONTROL FROM *NOW ON!*

CONTROL, CHILD?

YOU KNOW *NOTHING* OF CONTROL!

I AM THE MASTER OF YOUR FATE, DAN/GHOST RIDER!

I AND ALL THOSE LIKE ME.

ALL YOU CAN DO IS *REACT* TO THE CARNAGE THAT WE CREATE.

REACT AND *AVENGE*.

BUT WHAT VENGEANCE DOES A BLOODIED CORPSE DESIRE?

SO, ALL YOU CAN *REALLY* DO IS TO PROVIDE US WITH OUR NEXT VICTIMS.

YOU CAN'T STOP US, GHOST RIDER--

--BECAUSE YOU'RE ONE OF US!

NO.

NO!

DANIEL! WHAT IS IT?

NOTHING, MOM. JUST A BAD DREAM. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

THIS ISN'T THE FIRST *NIGHTMARE* THAT YOU'VE HAD SINCE BARB... SINCE SHE... PASSED ON. MAYBE YOU SHOULD STOP BY THE RECTORY AND TALK TO FATHER McDONALD. HE *MIGHT* BE ABLE TO HELP...

SHE DIDN'T *PASS ON*, MOM. SHE WAS *MURDERED!*

AND HER MURDERER IS *STILL* OUT THERE.

DANIEL, YOU SOUND SO *BITTER*. I'M SURE FATHER...

I'M GOIN' OUT, MOM. TO *STACY'S*. DON'T WAIT UP.

IF THAT CURSED *MOTORCYCLE* HADN'T COME INTO MY LIFE, EVERYTHING WOULD BE ALLRIGHT--

--BARB WOULD STILL BE *ALIVE*.

12 CYPRESS HILLS COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP

OKAY, *MS. MEAGHER.* WE'VE ALL READ YOUR ORGANIZATION'S PROPOSAL FOR HANDLING THE PROBLEM PLAGUING OUR COMMUNITY.

I THINK I CAN SPEAK ON BEHALF OF THE MEMBERS OF THE *NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES* WHEN I SAY THAT, WHILE YOUR PRICE IS *STEEP,* YOU DO COME HIGHLY RECOMMENDED WITH AN *IMPRESSIVE* TRACK RECORD.

IF WE DO ACCEPT YOUR PROPOSAL, *WHEN* COULD YOU GET STARTED?

IMMEDIATELY, *MR. CRANE.*

TONIGHT.

BUT, IF YOU DO ACCEPT OUR TERMS, I WANT YOU TO REALIZE THAT I WILL BROOK NO *INTERFERENCE* ON THE PART OF YOUR ORGANIZATIONS--

--WE WILL HANDLE YOUR PROBLEM ON *OUR* TERMS AND OUR TERMS *ALONE.*

I THINK WE'RE GETTING AHEAD OF OURSELVES HERE, PEOPLE. WE CAN'T GIVE HER GROUP THE CARTE BLANCHE THIS CONTRACT CALLS FOR. THEY'LL BE CARRYING MORE *FIREPOWER* THROUGH OUR NEIGHBORHOODS THAN THE POLICE, AND THE *PRICE?*

MR. STEIN. THE PRICE AND ALL TERMS ARE NON-NEGOTIABLE.

YOU CAME TO *US* BECAUSE *YOU* HAD A PROBLEM. MY ORGANIZATION CAN SOLVE YOUR PROBLEMS--

--ON *OUR* TERMS.

HARRY, HOW CAN YOU QUIBBLE OVER *MONEY*?!

WE'VE GOT TO THINK OF THE CHILDREN! WE'VE RAISED THE MONEY. LET'S SIGN.

MY DAUGHTER -- *PAULINE*. MAYBE THEY CAN FIND HER.

I LEAVE IT UP TO YOU.

TEN MINUTES LATER...

WE HAVE A *GO*.

RADIO IN ALL *M.E.A.R.T.* UNITS -- WE START *TONIGHT*.

LET'S BEGIN BY FINDING THIS *GHOST RIDER*.

ELSEWHERE...

I'M GLAD YOU DECIDED TO GET OUT TONIGHT, DAN.

AND I'M *REALLY* GLAD YOU'VE GIVEN UP THAT MOTORCYCLE OF YOURS.

WHAT MADE YOU STOP RIDING IT?

TOO MANY BAD *MEMORIES* ATTACHED TO IT--

--BUT I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT THAT.

LET'S JUST GRAB A PAPER AND SEE WHAT MOVIES ARE PLAYING.

MR. LARSEN, I'M GOING TO GRAB A DAILY NEWS.

DANNY? THAT YOU, BOY? IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

ME AND *GEORGIE* ARE CLOSIN' UP SHOP A LITTLE *EARLY* TONIGHT--

--BUSINESS BEIN' SLOW AND ALL. JUST AIN'T A LOT OF PEOPLE OUT AND ABOUT LATELY.

YOU KIDS BE *CAREFUL.*

BYE, GEORGIE!

YOU, TOO, MR. LARSEN!

OH, DAN! IT SAYS HERE THAT A GIRL WAS MURDERED RIGHT OUTSIDE OF LOM'S CHINESE RESTAURANT LAST NIGHT. HER THROAT WAS *RIPPED OUT!*

WE ATE THERE LAST NIGHT! ISN'T THAT EERIE?

YEAH. EERIE.

DON'T WALK

JUST A FEW MORE MINUTES, GEORGIE, AND WE CAN HEAD ON HOME TO DINNER.

GRRRRRR

DON'T GET YOUR BONES IN AN UPROAR, BOY-- I'M ALMOST DONE!

GRRRRRRRRRR

WHAT IS IT, BOY?

WHO'S THERE?

GRRRRR YIEEE

GEORGIE?

WHERE ARE YOU, BOY?

WHO'S THERE? WHAT DO YOU WANT?

NEWS

tink

LATER...

DIE HARDER

RATED R

I THOUGHT IT WAS AS GOOD AS THE FIRST ONE. WHAT DO YOU THINK?

IT'S MORE YOUR KIND OF MOVIE, DAN. I'D HAVE PREFERRED TO HAVE SEEN ROBOCOP.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO NOW?

I THOUGHT I'D STOP BY THE CHURCH AND SEE FATHER MC DONALD. DO YOU MIND?

OF COURSE NOT.

I'LL JUST BE A FEW MINUTES.

I WAS TOO SHORT WITH MOM EARLIER. THIS SHOULD MAKE HER FEEL BETTER.

SHOULDN'T HAVE ANY PROBLEM EXPLAINING TO MY PARISH PRIEST THAT I'VE OCCASIONALLY BEEN POSSESSED BY SOME SORT OF DEMONIC SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE--

--AND THAT ONE OF ITS ENEMIES KILLED MY SISTER.

HI, FATHER.

DANIEL, MY SON. GOOD TO SEE YOU. YOUR MOTHER WAS HOPING YOU'D DROP BY.

WELL, FATHER... I...I... I--

--I JUST WANT TO THANK YOU FOR ALL THE SUPPORT YOU'VE GIVEN US SINCE BARB'S DEATH.

WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

ARE YOU SURE THAT'S IT, DANIEL?

YOUR MOTHER TELLS ME THAT YOU'VE BEEN PLAGUED BY NIGHTMARES. SHE THINKS YOU MAY BE BLAMING YOURSELF FOR YOUR SISTER'S DEATH.

I'M NOT GOING TO PUSH YOU, SON--

--BUT I WANT YOU TO KNOW THE CHURCH DOORS ARE ALWAYS *OPEN*. AND I'LL BE HERE *WHENEVER* YOU NEED ME.

MINUTES LATER...

DANIEL?

IS THAT YOU, SON?

I UNDERSTAND--

LET US BEGIN.

--IT'S EASIER TO SPEAK ABOUT WHAT'S BOTHERING YOU IN THE SANCTUARY OF THE CONFESSIONAL.

CRAK

COME ALONG, *DANNY!* CLIMB ON UP!

WE'RE WAITING FOR YOU!

YOU CAN'T BLAME US FOR ALL THE BLOODSHED--

--IT'S ALL YOUR *OWN* DOING!

YOUR DADDY IS ONE OF US, LAD!

HE MADE YOU WHAT YOU ARE... WHAT YOU WILL BECOME!

NO! NOT MY *FATHER!*

WHAT? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

LOOK *AROUND* YOU, DANNO! LOOK AT THE ROAD YOU'LL BE TRAVELING!

IT'S ALL *YOUR* DOING, BOYO! I'LL JUST HELP YOU ALONG A BIT!

NOOOOOOOO

NOOOOOOOOO

DANIEL!

DANIEL! WAKE UP! IT'S AWFUL! IT'S JUST *AWFUL!*

WHAT?! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

OH, DAN! *LISTEN!*

THIS IS *LINDA WEI* REPORTING FOR NEWS CENTER 6.

RESIDENTS OF BROOKLYN AND QUEENS ARE STILL IN **SHOCK** AFTER THE LATEST IN A STRING OF MURDERS PLAGUING THE TWO BOROUGHS.

AT

THE POLICE HAVE NO LEADS IN THE MUTILATION MURDERS OF **FATHER MICHAEL McDONALD** AND NEWSPAPER VENDOR **THEODORE LARSEN.**

POLICE ARE NOT COMMENTING ON THE POSSIBLE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE TWO, BUT SAY THAT ALL LEADS ARE BEING PURSUED.

ANYONE WITH INFORMATION...

DAN, WHAT'S GOING ON?

WE JUST SAW THEM *LAST NIGHT!* WE WERE *WITH* THEM... WE... WE--

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S *HAPPENING,* STACE--

--BUT I'M GOING TO FIND OUT!

MIDNIGHT...

H.E.A.R.T. CORP.--HUMANS ENGAGING ALL RACIAL TERRORISM.

A FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION CONSISTING OF HIGHLY TRAINED INDIVIDUALS.

HIGHLY TRAINED IN ALL ASPECTS OF COMBAT AND WARFARE.

HIGHLY TRAINED WOMEN.

OKAY. COMMUNICATIONS CHECK. YOU KNOW THE ROUTINE. SOUND OFF.

DELGADO, LUZ.

TREVANI, DANIKA.

LIN, MEI.

MCCORMICK, FIONA.

OKAY. THIS IS A RECON MISSION ONLY.

FOLLOW LUZ AND MEI'S LEAD

SPECIALTY: RECON/ ELECTRONICS.

SPECIALTY: MARKSMAN.

SPECIALTY: HAND TO HAND/ RECON.

SPECIALTY: DEMOLITION.

WE WANT TO LEARN THE *EXTENT* OF WHAT THE SUBJECT CAN DO.

STAY IN CONTACT AND DO NOT ENGAGE.

TYLER MEAGHER. FIELD COMMANDER.

LET'S DO IT!

WHO ARE YOU? WHERE ARE YOU?

IS IT YOU, BLACKOUT?

HAVE YOU MOVED FROM MY DREAMS TO--

AIEEEEEEE

THE SCREAM.

THE TRANSFORMATION.

FWOOSH

THE PAIN.

THE SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE.

I RIDE AGAIN.

BLINDLY.

TOWARDS AN UNKNOWN ENEMY.

TOWARDS VENGEANCE.

AIEEEEEEE

HELPH--

TCHINK

HERE LIES PLD

FWOOMP

RUN, MORTAL!

THE RAGE BUILDS INSIDE OF ME.

IT BRINGS ME TO THE BRINK OF REMEMBERING...

REMEMBERING WHAT?

ANOTHER OF *HIS* CREATIONS. ONE OF HIS *SLAVES*.

WE WON'T LET YOU TAKE THE GIRL TO HIM, *MONSTER*.

ITS WORDS? WHAT IS IT TALKING ABOUT? IT DOESN'T MATTER--

ONLY VENGEANCE MATTERS--

THOK

I'M OUTTA HERE!

THIS IS TOO WEIRD.

I'LL GET MY BROTHER AND HIS GANG-- THEY'LL CUT THEM FREAKS UP REAL GOOD.

OOPH!

YOU MUSTN'T RACE AROUND IN THE DARK, DEAR--

--YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT YOU MIGHT RUN INTO!

AIIIIEEEEEEEE

THE GIRL HAS GOTTEN AWAY, DEMON! ONE LESS INNOCENT VICTIM TO BE MUTILATED BY MASQUE!

MAYBE NOW I CAN BREAK *HIS* SPELL--OR YOUR MISSHAPEN SKULL!

THE STRENGTH OF THIS CREATURE IS ADMIRABLE.

BUT MY THIRST FOR VENGEANCE IS NOT SO EASILY CHECKED.

TCHMK

FWMK

NOW, CREATURE! GIVE YOURSELF OVER TO ME!

THE SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE WILL HAVE HIS DUE TONIGHT.

FIGHT IF YOU WILL, BUT I WILL TASTE YOUR CORRUPTED SOUL.

SOUL?

HELP ME, ALEX! THIS MONSTER HAS ME BOUND!

STOP HIM BEFORE HE TAKES ME BACK TO MASQUE!

SPLOOSH

NO!

I WILL NOT BE DENIED!

IT IS GONE.

--MY *SISTER* HAS ESCAPED. WE'VE CHEATED MASQUE AGAIN.

YES, MASQUE-DEMON--

I MUST GO NOW. IT IS THE TIME.

BUT I WILL RETURN TO THIS PLACE AGAIN.

VENGEANCE WILL BE MINE. TOMORROW--

--AND FOREVER.

VERY GOOD.

LET'S RUN ALL THE COLLECTED DATA THROUGH THE COMPUTERS.

SEE IF THERE'S ANY INFORMATION ON THIS GHOST RIDER THAT WE CAN PICK UP.

HOW DO WE PROCEED THEN?

WE KILL HIM, OF COURSE!

NEXT ISSUE: *H.E.A.R.T. CORP., BLACKOUT, AND X-FACTOR IN A BATTLE BENEATH THE CEMETERY!*

MARVEL® COMICS

TM

$1.50 US
$2.00 CAN
9
JAN
CC 01317

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

©1990 MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC.

GHOST RIDER

FEATURING X-FACTOR® AND THE MORLOCKS!™

—JAVIER SALTARES 90—

WHEN INNOCENT BLOOD IS SPILLED. A SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE IS BORN, AND DANNY KETCH FINDS HIMSELF TRANSFORMED. STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

GHOST RIDER

CYPRESS HILLS CEMETERY. . .

A GRAVEYARD MAY SEEM LIKE AN ODD PLACE IN WHICH TO ESCAPE YOUR NIGHTMARES, BUT THIS PARTICULAR CEMETERY HAS ALWAYS BEEN A SOURCE OF COMFORT FOR DAN KETCH.

COMFORT DERIVED FROM FAMILIARITY. HE AND HIS SISTER, BARBARA, GREW UP HERE, PLAYED CHILDHOOD GAMES--

--UNTIL, RECENTLY. BARB WAS MORTALLY WOUNDED, DIED, AND IS BURIED HERE.

THIS CEMETERY HAS BEEN THE CENTER OF EVERY SIGNIFICANT EVENT IN DAN'S LIFE--

--SO IT IS ONLY NATURAL THAT HE RETURN HERE WHEN HIS VERY LIFE IS BECOMING A NIGHTMARE.

PURSUIT

HOWARD MACKIE • WRITER
JAVIER SALTARES • PENCILER
MARK TEXEIRA • INKER
JAMES PALMIOTTI • BACKGROUND INK
JANICE CHIANG • LETTERER
GREGORY WRIGHT • COLORIST
BOBBIE CHASE • EDITOR
TOM DE FALCO • EDITOR IN CHIEF

PEOPLE ARE DYING AROUND HIM.

EVERYONE WITH WHOM HE COMES IN CONTACT IS KILLED OFF BY THE MANIAC RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS SISTER'S DEATH.

DEMONS ARE PLAGUING HIS SLEEP SO MUCH SO THAT DAN CHOOSES NOT TO SLEEP MUCH ANYMORE.

BUT DEMONS DON'T REALLY EXIST--

--DO THEY?

THAT'S IT, DANIEL, MY BOY, LEAD ON--

--LEAD ME TO MY NEXT VICTIM.

HEART-1 TO ALL UNITS.

ALL HELMET-CAMS ARE FUNCTIONING AND ON SCREEN.

MOTION DETECTORS ARE PICKING UP THREE INDIVIDUALS IN SECTOR 12. ALL UNITS RECON.

HOLD ON THAT COMMAND.

HEAT SENSORS JUST PICKED UP ANOTHER SOURCE MOVING QUICKLY FROM SECTOR 10. IT'S VAGUE...IT'S COMING FROM *BENEATH* THE CEMETERY!

LOCK AND LOAD. FULL CLIPS. BE READY FOR ENGAGEMENT.

GEE! ME MUM WAS *HOPIN'* I'D BE GETTING MESELF ENGAGED!

QUIET, IRISH--

--WE GOT COMPANY.

WHAT'S THAT IN THE BUSH?

COULD IT HAVE FOLLOWED ME HERE?

OKAY, YOU MANIAC, YOU WANT TO DO IT-- LET'S GO! RIGHT HERE! RIGHT NOW!

SCREEEE

I DON'T WANNA DO NUTHIN'! I SWEAR, MISTER!

I'LL GET OUTTA HERE... FIND SOMEPLACE ELSE TO SLEEP... JUST LEAVE ME ALONE... I'M GOIN'...

HEADIN' STRAIGHT OUT... YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL EDDIE G. NUTHIN' TWICE... NO, SIREE...

JUST 'CAUSE I AIN'T GOT ANYPLACE TO LIVE DON'T MEAN I'M STUPID... SOMEDAY I'LL GET ME A HOME AND THEN I'LL SHOW YOU ALL--

IT IS SAID THAT "HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS," EDWARD--

--ALLOW ME TO SHOW YOU YOUR HOME!

N-NOOOOOOOOOO!

HE'S AS BAD AS *MASQUE*. HE HAS TO BE STOPPED!

THE CAPT

EWOOSH

WHAT THE--?

ALL UNITS! THE HEAT SENSORS JUST BLEW A FUSE!

MOVE IN AND INTERCEPT *EVERYONE*.

COME NOW, EDWARD, DON'T FIGHT SO.

IT WILL BE MORE EXPEDITIOUS IF YOU WOULD JUST LET ME REMOVE YOUR HEART.

AND DON'T WORRY, I WOULD NEVER HURT YOUR FACE.

NEVER THE FACE.

NO MORE BLOOD FOR *YOU*, BLACKOUT! TONIGHT, YOU RECEIVE *FULL PAYMENT* FOR YOUR CRIMES.

TONIGHT, YOU--

TAKE HIM DOWN BEFORE HE KILLS THOSE TWO!

BUDDA

BUDDA

BUDDA

BUDDA

KEEP HITTING HIM! THESE SPECIAL JACKETS ARE DOING THE TRICK!

PAIN.

I'M FEELING PAIN!

GHOST RIDER, COME WITH US.

WE CAN TAKE YOU SOMEPLACE SAFE. SOMEWHERE NO ONE WILL FIND YOU--

--TRUST US! WE CAN TAKE YOU TO THE CHILDREN!

TRUST?

HMM. CURIOUSER AND CURIOUSER.

MY LOVE TO YOU

THE SCRAG IS GONE! WE'VE LOST HIM!

YES, TYLER, WE LOST...I DON'T KNOW HOW...OF COURSE WE'LL FAN...RIGHT AWAY, TYLER.

SHE IS PEEVED!

ELSEWHERE...

ON THE TIP OF MANHATTAN, NEAR BATTERY PARK, AN IMMENSE ALIEN SPACESHIP TOWERS OVER THE CITY.

THIS SHIP SERVES AS THE HOME AND HEADQUARTERS FOR CYCLOPS, THE BEAST, MARVEL GIRL, AND ICEMAN--THE MUTANT GROUP KNOWN AS--X-FACTOR.

HEE! HEE! HEE!

THE POLICE ARE STILL ATTEMPTING TO APPREHEND THE PERSON OR PEOPLE BEHIND THE RASH OF CHILD ABDUCTIONS PLAGUING THE BROOKLYN/QUEENS AREA.

?

ALL THE ABDUCTIONS OCCURRED IN OR AROUND THE CEMETERIES IN THE...

HAVE NO FEAR, PROGENY OF MY BEST FRIEND'S LOINS--*UNCLE HENRY McCOY* WILL PROTECT YOU FROM THOSE YUCKY KIDNAPPERS!

IT DOES MY HEART GOOD TO SEE THAT YOU KNOW YOU'RE IN GOOD HANDS--OR *WHATEVER* SPARE APPENDAGE I MIGHT HAVE.

TEE HEE HEEE HEE!

JEAN, YOU LOOK WORRIED!

OF COURSE I'M WORRIED, *BOBBY*! ANYONE OF THOSE CHILDREN DESPITE THE BEAST'S SOOTHING WORDS, COULD BE *DEAD*!

AND WHAT IF THIS IS *NANNY*, OR EVEN WORSE, ONE OF THE *INFERNO DEMONS*?

JEAN'S RIGHT, BOBBY. THIS IS SOMETHING WE SHOULD *INVESTIGATE* AS X-FACTOR.

AND WHAT OF THIS FRISKY YOUNG PUP, *SCOTT*?

IT'S PAST HIS BEDTIME, HANK. LET'S TUCK HIM IN. *SHIP* CAN LOOK AFTER HIM WHILE WE'RE GONE.

BENEATH THE CYPRESS HILLS CEMETERY...

IT IS SAFE DOWN HERE. NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO FIND US. WE'RE ALL SAFE AND SOUND.

YOU SPOKE OF THE CHILDREN-- THE MISSING CHILDREN.

YOU MUST TAKE ME TO THEIR ABDUCTOR. THEY MUST BE AVENGED.

NO! NO! YOU MISUNDERSTAND. THE CHILDREN ARE *SAFE*. THEY WON'T BE HARMED. THEY ARE BEING PROTECTED FROM THE EVIL ONE.

WE COULD USE YOUR *HELP!*

IF YOU SPEAK THE TRUTH, YOU WILL HAVE MY ASSISTANCE--

--BUT THE NIGHT IS ALMOST AT AN END. I MUST LEAVE.

BUT CAN *THEY* BE TRUSTED? CAN GHOST RIDER?

FWOOSH

FOREST PARK, LATER THAT DAY...

MY LIFE SEEMS TO BE CONSTANTLY CONNECTED WITH THIS CEMETERY--

--NOT THE AVERAGE LIFE OF A NINETEEN-YEAR-OLD MALE.

YUCK, JACK! DO WE HAVE TO EAT LOOKING OUT OVER THE GRAVEYARD? IT GIVES ME THE HEEBY-JEEBIES?

PIA, IT'S THE BEST VIEW IN THE PARK.

STACY AND JACK ARE THE BEST FRIENDS I HAVE IN THE WORLD. IT SCARES ME TO THINK OF ANYTHING HAPPENING TO EITHER OF THEM.

THAT'S WHY I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT IF THE RECENT KILLINGS THAT HAVE BEEN COMING SO CLOSE TO ME ARE REALLY THE WORK OF *BLACKOUT*, OR IF IT'S ALL IN MY MIND.

C'MON, *DAN*, LET'S EAT SO WE CAN HEAD ON OVER TO THE CAROUSEL!

BE RIGHT THERE, *STACE*!

AN HOUR LATER...

OOH, JACK, MAKE THEM STOP! I THINK I'M GONNA BE SICK!

HOW IS IT THAT A GUY LIKE JACK ALWAYS WINDS UP WITH SUCH DITSY WOMEN?

IT'S BEEN A CURSE THAT'S PLAGUED JACK AND ME EVER SINCE WE WERE KIDS--

--DITSY WOMEN JUST KEEP THROWING THEMSELVES AT US!

THROW *THIS*, BUDDY!

OOPH!

NICE MOVE, STACE! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WHEN THE POLICE ACADEMY GIVES HER A GUN, DAN?

IF SHE LIVES THAT LONG, MY BOY. IF SHE LIVES THAT LONG.

LATER...

STACE, HOW'S YOUR DAD? I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM LATELY.

HOW ABOUT YOU? AFTER YOU GO INTO THE POLICE ACADEMY, ARE YOU GOING TO HELP YOUR DAD PUT THE GHOST RIDER AWAY? WHAT IF HE TURNS OUT *NOT* TO BE A BAD GUY?

YOU KNOW MY FATHER... THE EVER *OVERWORKED* POLICE CAPTAIN...HE JUST CAN'T REST WHILE THIS *GHOST RIDER* IS ON THE LOOSE. HE'S *DETERMINED* TO PUT HIM AWAY.

OH, DAN, YOU'VE BEEN LISTENING TO JACK TOO MUCH.

NOW SHUSH...

IT'S BEEN MONTHS SINCE WE'VE HAD TIME TO BE THAT CLOSE! THANK GOD THINGS ARE SETTLING DOWN.

HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT, STACY? PEOPLE ARE DYING ALL AROUND US!

I'VE GOT TO GO! I'VE GOT TO BE SOMEWHERE! I'LL CALL YOU.

DAN?

HOW TOUCHINGLY SWEET.

SOON IT WILL BE *YOUR* TURN, GIRL--

--BUT NOT TONIGHT!

SALEM FIELDS

THE EVENING BREEZE STIRS THE FALLEN LEAVES IN ONE OF THE MANY CEMETERIES OF CYPRESS HILLS.

SCHWOOSH

LET'S SLOW DOWN, CYKE. I CAN'T SEE A THING IF WE'RE MOVING THIS FAST!

I JUST WANTED TO GET US TO THE *EXACT* LOCATION OF THE LAST KIDNAPPING.

WELL, THIS CERTAINLY COULD BE THE PLACE. IT SURE IS *CREEPY* ENOUGH. ANYBODY EVER SEE THE MOVIE *NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD*?

ANYBODY?

BOBBY, MY FROZEN FRIEND, HAVE ICE CRYSTALS INVADED YOUR *FRONTAL LOBE*? DON'T YOU REMEMBER WHAT JEANIE WAS FORCED TO ENDURE AT THE HANDS OF *N'ASTIRH* IN A CEMETERY*?

*SEE X-MEN #242. --BOBBIE

GEEZ! I'M SORRY, HANK. I WASN'T THINKING! I'LL COOL THE JOKES!

ELSEWHERE IN THE SAME CEMETERY...

INFRARED'S WORKING PERFECTLY WE'RE OVER THE CEMETERY... NO POWERLINES... ALL SYSTEMS GO!

BINGO! OUR TARGET IS SIGHTED.

LET'S TAKE HIM DOWN!

HE'S ON TO US-- PICKING UP SPEED.

WE'VE LOST VISUALS.

I'VE GOT HIM ON THE HEAT SENSORS. THE GUY'S OURS TONIGHT.

ALL INSTRUMENTS SHOW THE BIKE'S STOPPED.

--AWAY!

I WANT EVERYONE READY TO ENGAGE-- AND THIS TIME LET'S NOT LET HIM GET--

"HE'S *GONE!*

WE'LL GET HIM LATER. WITHOUT THE BIKE, HE ISN'T GOING ANYWHERE.

AND I WANT THAT BIKE-- *NOW!*

BENEATH THE CEMETERY...

THIS DARKNESS FEELS STRANGELY FAMILIAR.

COMFORTABLE.

AS THOUGH I BELONG HERE--

--WITH THE DEAD.

MR. GHOST RIDER! OVER *HERE!*

I *TOLD* THEM YOU'D COME BACK. I TOLD THEM!

WHERE ARE THE CHILDREN?

DON'T YOU WORRY. THEY'RE SAFE AND SOUND. YES, *SIREE!* SAFE AND HAPPY AS BUGS IN A RUG. *PIXIE* IS SEEING TO THAT!

NOT SAFE FOR LONG, MY DISFIGURED FRIEND.

PIXIE! PIXIE! HE'S HERE! HE'S HERE! I TOLD YOU! I TOLD YOU!

YES, BERTRAM, I CAN SEE THAT. NOW PLEASE CALM DOWN AND SHOW OUR GUEST IN.

OH, WOW! IT'S YOU AGAIN!

HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE THE NIGHT THEY BROUGHT ME HERE. THE NIGHT THAT BLACKOUT GUY TRIED TO*... I'M GLAD TO SEE YA', FLAME HEAD!

*GHOST RIDER #3. --BOBBIE

IT APPEARS THAT YOU'VE MET OUR YOUNG PAULINE, MR. GHOST RIDER. YOU SEEM TO HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF ADMIRERS AMONGST OUR CHARGES.

WHY DO YOU HOLD THESE CHILDREN HERE?

I ASSURE YOU THE CHILDREN ARE QUITE SAFE. THEY HAVE BEEN TAKEN FROM THE SURFACE FOR THEIR OWN PROTECTION

THERE IS AN EVIL PERSON--A MUTANT LIKE MYSELF-- MORLOCKS WE ARE CALLED--

--HE, MASQUE, WISHES TO...TO--

--DO MORE OF THIS!

HE DID THIS TO ME BECAUSE I ALONE OPPOSED HIM. AND THE OTHERS THAT BROUGHT YOU TO ME WERE ONCE NORMAL HUMANS THAT MASQUE DISFIGURED. HE PLANNED TO START ON THE CHILDREN OF THE SURFACE.

WE KIDNAPPED THEM BEFORE WE COULD.

AS YOU CAN SEE, ALL ARE QUITE SAFE AND HAPPY--

KRAKOOM

THE CHILDREN!

EVERYONE, FAN OUT!

LET'S TAKE HIM DOWN QUICK AND EASY!

BRAAP

BRAAP

DIRECTLY ABOVE...

THIS IS IT! INSTRUMENTS ARE PICKING UP LOW-END SEISMIC DISTURBANCES DIRECTLY BELOW THE SURFACE. THE TYPE CAUSED BY A FIREFIGHT.

IF THERE'S A TUNNEL DOWN THERE, MY OPTIC BLASTS WILL BLOW A PATH THROUGH FOR US!

BOBBY, ME BOY, DO YOUR ICE THING AND ALLOW X-FACTOR TO ENTER THE NETHER REGIONS!

JEAN, USE YOUR TELEKINETIC POWERS TO LOWER YOURSELF IN AND TAKE UP THE REAR.

YOU GOT IT, BEAST! HANG ON, CYKE!

ALREADY DONE, SCOTT!

TYLER! WE'VE GOT SOME *MORE* FREAKS JOINING IN-- AND THEY LOOK LIKE MUTIES!

BETTER SCRAG THEM ALL JUST TO BE *SAFE*.

I'VE GOT THE CHILDREN -- YOU ALL HAD BETTER *DISARM* THE REST.

COME, CHILDREN! COME TO UNCLE BLACK OUT-- YOU WILL BE *SAFE* WITH ME!

NO, CHILDREN, DON'T GO BACK THERE. COME WITH *ME*. I'LL PROTECT YOU ALL.

AND WHO WILL *PROTECT* YOU, MY LITTLE FAIRY QUEEN?

I WILL PROTECT AND AVENGE ALL THESE INNOCENT LIVES, MURDERER.

OH! YOU DO *FRIGHTEN* ME SO!

NOW, PIXIE--

YOURS WILL BE THE FIRST *MUTANT* *BLOOD* TO TOUCH MY LIPS!

MMMMMMMM

ABOVE...

THESE MUTANTS WEREN'T IN THE PLANNED SCENARIO--

--LET'S RETREAT.

BESIDES, IT LOOKS LIKE THE MISSING KIDS ARE GETTING AWAY SAFELY.

WE'VE DONE OUR JOB *AND* GOT THE GHOST RIDER'S BIKE IN THE DEAL.

BACK BELOW...

YOU M-MUST SAVE THE CHILDREN, G-GHOST RIDER!

I MUST AVENGE YOUR BLOOD.

LISTEN TO ME--

--WHAT GOOD WILL YOUR VENGEANCE SERVE IF MORE INNOCENT BLOOD IS SPILLED--THE CHILDREN'S BLOOD--WHILE CLAIMING IT?

PLEASE SAVE THEM--

--PLEASE...

RMMMMBLE

NO! HELP US!

GHOST RIDER! HELP US! PLEASE!

AN UNEARTHLY SCREAM PIERCES THE NIGHT.

AH

VIBRATING ALL THAT IT TOUCHES.

THE SCREAM IS ANSWERED.

--THE SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE.

BREAKING LOOSE FROM THE SPEEDING HELICOPTER THE MYSTICAL MOTORCYCLE PLUNGES EARTHWARD--

--TO ANSWER ITS MASTER'S CALL.

HEADS UP, EVERYONE!

WHAT IS THAT THING?

WHAT IN BLUE BLAZES?

ONE OF OUR STABILIZERS IS SHOT.

GET US OUT OF HERE--

WE'LL REGROUP AND COME BACK FOR THE MUTIES, THE MOTORCYCLE, AND GHOST RIDER!

ALL OF YOU--ON THE MOTORCYCLE! IT WILL TAKE YOU TO SAFETY.

NO MORE INNOCENT BLOOD WILL BE SPILLED HERE TONIGHT.

WHAT KIND OF BLOOD RUNS THROUGH YOUR VEINS, DEMON?

SURELY ONE THAT LOOKS LIKE YOU MUST HAVE A SOUL AS BLACK AS MINE.

WHAT ARE YOU ABOUT, GHOST RIDER?

I AM ABOUT VENGEANCE.

NO!

THAT'S WHERE YOU ARE WRONG! TONIGHT VENGEANCE IS *MINE*!

VENGEANCE FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO MY FACE-- TO MY LIFE!

THE VENGEANCE THAT STARTED WITH THE SLAUGHTER OF YOUR SISTER BARB!

NO.

YOU REMEMBER BARB, DON'T YOU, DEMON?

YES!

YES, DEMON, TRY AND KILL ME!

BUT I WILL NOT DIE ALONE!

RRRMBLE

TWO AS UGLY AS WE DESERVE TO DIE TOGETHER!

GOODBYE, DEMON!

OUTSIDE...

GHOST RIDER. HE SAVED US. YES, SIREEE.

ARE YOU FRIENDS OF HIS?

NO, I'M AFRAID NOT.

WELL, THAT'S OKAY! YOU HELPED, TOO-- DIDN'T YOU?

THE REST OF MY FRIENDS ARE SEEING THAT THE REMAINING CHILDREN ARE RETURNED TO THEIR PARENTS. THAT'S WHAT PIXIE WOULD'VE WANTED US TO DO.

MEANWHILE WE'LL KEEP PROTECTING THEM FROM *MASQUE*.

MASQUE IS BEHIND THIS?

WHAT DO WE DO WITH THIS DOOHICKEY? IT APPEARS THAT IT'S FORMER OWNER IS LOST TO THE TUNNELS BELOW.

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED A BIKE-- THOUGH I'M NOT TOO SURE ABOUT THOSE *TIRES!*

YEARGH!

RRRMMBLE

CYKE, SHOULD WE STOP HIM?

NO, BOBBY. I DON'T KNOW THAT WE *COULD* IF WE *WANTED* TO!

BESIDES, WHO ARE WE TO JUDGE A MAN ON THE WAY HE LOOKS?

TONIGHT IT'S THE GHOST RIDER'S *DEEDS* THAT COUNT.

NEXT ISSUE: *A NEW AND DANGEROUS KILLER IS ON THE LOOSE! ONLY GHOST RIDER CAN STOP* **ZODIAK!**

MARVEL® COMICS

© 1990 MARVEL ENT. GROUP, INC.

$1.75 US
$2.25 CAN
6
JAN
UK 85p

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

CBG FAN AWARDS WINNER FAVORITE CHARACTER

CBG FAN AWARDS WINNER FAVORITE PENCILER

CBG FAN AWARDS WINNER FAVORITE COVER ARTIST

CBG FAN AWARDS WINNER FAVORITE LETTERER

SPIDER-MAN®

PART 1 OF 2

FACE IT, SPIDEY--AWARDS DON'T MEAN #@%!! AGAINST THE HOBGOBLIN!™

AND WAIT 'TILL YOU SEE OUR SURPRISE GUEST-STAR!

FACE

lord save me.

SCARRED

UGLY

HIDEOUS

DON'T LOOK

DEFORMED

it's coming off.

MOMMY WHY IS HIS FACE--

TORTURED

DON'T LOOK

NOT REAL

DISFIGURED

HORRIBLE

HIS FACE

HIS FACE

HIS FACE

THERE! IT'S OFF. I SAID IT'S OFF!

HIS FACE

HIS FACE

HIS FACE

HIS FACE!

NOW STOP! STOP IT, ALL OF YOU. CAN'T YOU SEE IT'S OFF. NOW SHUT UP!! OR I SHALL MAKE YOU SUFFER EVEN MORE.

ONE BY ONE I'VE REMOVED YOU. EACH ONE SCREAMING YOUR LIES. THOSE ON THE OUTSIDE REMAIN PURE.

PLEASE DON'T MAKE ME LOOK.

DO I NEED TO REMOVE MORE OF YOU? I TOOK YOU FROM THE STREETS TO TEACH YOU NOT TO MOCK ME. TO ELIMINATE YOUR LIES.

BUT IF THEY SLIP I SHALL DEAL WITH THEIR BLASPHEMY. THE PAIN AND PUNISHMENT WILL BE MUCH SWEETER THAN YOURS.

HIS FACE.

MY GOD!

Stan Lee PRESENTS:

ARTIST WRITER TODD McFARLANE / RICK PARKER LETTERS GREGORY WRIGHT COLORS / JIM SALICRUP EDITOR TOM DeFALCO CHIEF

Part 1

MASQUES

QUIET! WHY MUST YOU TEST ME?!

I COULD KILL YOU ALL IN A SECOND, YET I CHOOSE TO FORGIVE YOU. ALL I WANT IN RETURN IS YOUR SILENCE.

DEFORMED.

WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU? WHY DO YOU CONTINUE TO CURSE ME?

WE HAVEN'T SAID A WORD.

mom.

LIAR! THEN LOOK AND TELL ME WHAT YOU SEE.

NO. PLEASE I CAN'T--

YOU MAKE ME SICK.

DON'T--- HURT MY CHILD.

CAN'T YOU SEE THE DEVIL IS CONTROLLING YOU, BLINDING YOU TO THE TRUTH. AND YOU'RE TOO WEAK TO RESIST HIM.

THAT'S WHY I MUST ELIMINATE YOUR KIND-- AND YOUR LIES.

I HAVEN'T SAID... A... WORD.

SUCH A PITY---

'CAUSE YOU HAD THE LOOKS OF AN ANGEL.

OH? NOW YOU CAN LOOK ME IN THE FACE.

DO YOU *SEE* THE TRUTH?!

NO! YOUR KIND IS ALWAYS BLIND. HYPOCRITE. BLASPHEMER. ONLY PRAY THAT HE SHALL FORGIVE YOU TOO!

mmngh!

MOM?

WHAT HAPPENED TO MY MOM?

SHE IS IN A BETTER PLACE.

BUT YOU, CHILD, LOOKED AT ME DIRECTLY. YOU AREN'T AFRAID. THERE IS STILL HOPE FOR THIS WORLD. MY EFFORTS ARE NOT IN VAIN.

COME, YOU SHALL BE MY DISCIPLE, I WILL GIVE YOU STRENGTH. KNOWLEDGE.

OUR MISSION IS JUST BEGINNING.

I WANT MY MOM.

FORGET YOUR EARTHLY WANTS.

OUR NEEDS ARE FAR BEYOND THOSE OF MORTALS.

BROOKLYN.

IT'S NOT MY FAULT, THEY LIKED IT. THEY WANTED IT.

YOUR KIND CAN *ALWAYS* RATIONALIZE IT AWAY.

DEGRADING CHILDREN IN VILE PORNOGRAPHIC MOVIES CAN HAVE *NO* LOGICAL EXPLANATION.

THEY'RE JUST STREET KIDS. NOTHING *SPECIAL*. I GAVE THEM A HOME AND WORK.

IS THAT SO BAD?

THAT IS A CRIME I CANNOT FORGIVE.

YOU STOLE THEIR *INNOCENCE!* AND WHEN YOU WERE DONE YOU STOLE THEIR LIVES!

NO!

I ONLY FULFILLED THEIR WANTS-- THEIR DESIRES. THEY WERE HOMELESS, I GAVE THEM *LOVE.*

I'VE DONE NOTHING. IT WAS THEM. THEY WERE WORTHLESS. MY ONLY *SIN* IS THAT I CARED.

YOU ARE SICK.

NOW YOU MUST SUFFER FOR YOUR DEEDS.

NO!

YES!

HE FALLS A DOZEN STORIES, SCREAMING ALL THE WAY---

--YET, BELOW, THE GHOST RIDER WAITS, READY TO METE OUT HIS VENGEANCE.

YOU CHOOSE TO HIDE BEHIND LIES AND DECEIT. NOW *FEEL* THE ANGUISH YOU HAVE BROUGHT UPON THE *INNOCENT.*

G--G--G--GOD.

THE SPIRIT HAS DELIVERED HIS MESSAGE.

tippy toe--
tippy toe--
nice--
--and--
--slow.
PETER PARKER!!
UH-OH.
AND JUST WHERE ARE *YOU* SNEAKING OFF TO?
UH, I THOUGHT THAT I-- --um-- TOLD YA THAT- er-
PETER, YOU'RE A *WORKAHOLIC.*
MADAME, I'LL TAKE THAT AS A COMPLIMENT. WISH WE COULD GAB, BUT I'M IN A RUSH, AND A MAN'S *GOTTA* DO WHAT A MAN'S *GOTTA* DO.
I'LL CHECK MY CALENDAR, MAYBE SQUEEZE YOU IN FOR LUNCH.
HUGS AND KISSES, * mwa mwa mwa *

BYE!

THAT *MARY JANE*; WHAT A SPORT! SOMEDAY I'M GOING TO HAVE TO *DIVORCE* HER -- JUST SO I CAN MARRY HER ALL OVER AGAIN.

BUT TIME TO GET DOWN TO SOME SERIOUS SUPER-HEROING ---

--- IF I DON'T GET *CAUGHT* IN THIS WEBBING FIRST.

WHY DO I SHOOT SO *MUCH* OF IT ANYWAY?

MONSTER
CRUEL
EVIL
UGLY
FACE
HIS FACE
WHY WON'T THEY STOP CURSING ME?
BEFORE, I WAS A MERCENARY--A GUN FOR HIRE. NOW I'M TRYING TO *FORGET* MY PAST AND ASCEND TO SOMETHING *BETTER.*
EVIL
NO! IT IS YOU WHO ARE EVIL.
MY CHILD WE MUST LEAVE.
ONLY THE STRONG WILL LIVE, BUT THEY SHALL BEAR THE *MARK*, SHOWING THEY HAVE CHANGED THEIR WAYS.
SHOWING THEIR *SALVATION.*
FOR NOW, WE MUST FIND NEW QUARTERS.
THIS PUMPKIN BOMB WILL TEACH THEM TO MOCK ME.

WHAT'S THE BODY COUNT?

TWELVE, SIR. ANOTHER FIFTEEN ARE STILL ALIVE-- BUT *ALL* ARE DISFIGURED BADLY.

DO WE KNOW HOW MANY ARE UNACCOUNTED FOR?

NOT YET. BE ANOTHER SIX TO SEVEN HOURS TILL WE SIFT THROUGH THIS GARBAGE.

UNBELIEVABLE.

SOME OF THE VICTIMS ARE GIVING INFORMATION. LOOKS LIKE *ANOTHER* SICKO *SUPER-VILLAIN.*

MY GOD, HOW MANY OF THOSE GUYS ARE THERE?

WAY TOO MANY, SIR.

LUCKY US, HUH?

"THESE BATTLES ARE GETTING *WAY* OUT OF OUR LEAGUE.

"WHERE'RE THE SO-CALLED HEROES-- TOO *SCARED* TO COME OUT AT NIGHT AND HELP CLEAN UP THE *MESS* THEY MADE.

"SEEMS LIKE EVERYONE'S A *FLAMING* LUNATIC THESE DAYS!"

ONCE AGAIN WE REPEAT OUR TOP STORY. TWELVE PEOPLE ARE DEAD, ANOTHER FIFTEEN INJURED IN WHAT SEEMS TO BE AN UNPROVOKED ATTACK BY THE VILLAIN CALLED HOBGOBLIN---

-- WERE THE VICTIMS OF KIDNAPPING. PREVIOUSLY BELIEVED TO BE MISSING. THE SURVIVORS WERE ALL SCARRED BADLY, ALTHOUGH THE DOCTORS INDICATE THE WOUNDS WERE NOT FROM THE FIRE, BUT MORE LIKELY---

CNN

-- FORMERLY THE JACK O'LANTERN, HIS PAST DOES NOT INDICATE ANY OF THIS. IT IS MY OPINION THAT THE HEROES HAVE INADVERTENTLY BRED A CESSPOOL OF ADVERSARIES THAT CANNOT BE RESTRICTED TO POLITE GRUDGE MATCHES--

EDITORIAL

-- AUTHORITIES HAVE SAID, IN THIS SENSELESS SLAUGHTER, THE FANTASTIC FOUR ASSURED THE MEDIA THAT SPIDER-MAN WOULD BE THE POINT MAN IN THIS INVESTIGATION WITH PLENTY OF BACK-UP SHOULD HE REQUIRE---

NEWS

ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT!

COME TO DADDY, YOU BEAUTIFUL ANGEL. SHOW ME HOW TO FEEL GOOD. C'MON NOW, HERE WE GO.

READY! ONE, TWO--

--LORD ABOVE!

NOT *QUITE*, BUT IT'LL DO FOR NOW.

HERE, LET *ME* TAKE YOUR LITTLE TREASURE FIRST.

NOW HERE'S THE PLAN, EVERYONE'S POINTED ME IN *YOUR* DIRECTION TONIGHT. THEY SAY YOU MIGHT KNOW WHERE THE *HOBGOBLIN* IS HOLED UP.

I DON'T LIKE THE WORD *MIGHT!*

SO IF YOU TELL ME WHAT I NEED TO KNOW, THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE YOU CAN HAVE SOME DESSERT.

MOMENTS LATER.

NOW BE A GOOD LITTLE BOY.

MY WEBBING WILL DISSOLVE IN ABOUT AN *HOUR*, AT WHICH TIME YOU ARE *FREE* TO GATHER UP YOUR DRUGS.

THANKS FOR THE INFO.

IN THE MEANTIME, I WOULDN'T SNEEZE.

OKAY! ALL RIGHT! JUST DON'T SPILL ANY OF IT!!

STUFF'S EXPENSIVE, YA KNOW.

HEY, THE WIND! YOU FORGOT ABOUT THE *WIND*!

WHAT KIND OF A *MONSTER* ARE YOU!!?

--SAID YOU COULD TAKE--

UNNGH!

I'VE ASKED YOU ONCE-- NICELY. I DON'T GIVE SECOND CHANCES.

HOBGOBLIN. WHERE IS HE?

okay okay

I'LL DEAL WITH YOUR GUNS ANOTHER TIME.

PLEASE-- I'VE TOLD YOU WHERE THE GUN SHIPMENT AND MONEY ARE--*ANYTHING* YOU NEED, IT'S *YOURS*-- JUST BACK OFF--PLEASE LET ME MOVE AND---

---I'LL---

GOD, NO.

FOOL.

I'M GLAD YOU'VE *CONVERTED* OVER TO THE LORD'S SIDE, CHILD.

I, MYSELF, HAD FALLEN INTO SIN ONCE. CASTING ABOUT FOR MY LOT IN LIFE, I LATCHED ONTO THE *NEGATIVE* THINGS. BUT RECENTLY, I'VE DISCOVERED HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE FALLEN FROM GRACE.

THEN THE VOICES STARTED. THE *TAUNTS*. THE *LIES*. AND I KNEW I HAD A REKINDLED PURPOSE.

ONE BY ONE I'VE DEALT WITH THEIR *TRANSGRESSIONS*. ONLY YOU HAVE SHOWN ME THERE IS STILL HOPE FOR THE TRUTH.

GOOD. YOU ARE READY TO REDEEM YOUR SOUL.

THAT WILL MAKE THIS EVEN *EASIER*.

YEAH, YEAH, I'VE HEARD IT *ALL* BEFORE.

WHO *DARES*?!

ONCE COMPLETE, THE *DEVIL* WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GET NEAR YOU.

THE WAYS OF EVIL CAN BE *SO* DESTRUCTIVE.

YES, MR. GOBLIN, SIR.

OTHERS WILL SOON FOLLOW.

LISTEN, I'M GETTING SICK AND TIRED OF YOU PSYCHOS USING INNOCENT PEOPLE TO GET AT ME!

YOU'VE GOT A PROBLEM, THEN DEAL WITH ME DIRECTLY. FILTH LIKE YOU HIDING BEHIND CHILDREN...KILLING RANDOMLY--

WHERE DOES IT END?!

THE DEVIL!

HE HAS COME TO CHALLENGE MY NEW ALLEGIANCE.

WHAT--?!

LORD, DID YOU EVEN HEAR A WORD I SAID?!

STAY HERE, KID.

LEAVE HIM ALONE, DEMON!

KID, MOVE IT!

GOBLIN, ARE YOU NUTS?! DUMB QUESTION.

MR. GOBLIN-- HELP ME.

I'M NOT EVEN GONNA WASTE A *BAD* JOKE ON YOU.

YOU'RE TOO FAR GONE.

OOMF!

WHY WON'T YOU SEE THE TRUTH?

ADMIT TO YOUR *SINS*.

REPENT! REPENT!

WHAT AM I DEALING WITH?

Please --

--stop.

PLEASE, I SAID STOP.

STOP!

DON'T HURT HIM, SPIDER-MAN. HE HASN'T DONE ANY HARM.

BESIDES, ME AND MR. GOBLIN ARE NOW BEST BUDDIES.

HE'S TRYING TO DO GOOD.

HE LOVES ME.

THE SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE RACES CLOSER.

NEXT ISSUE: The CONCLUSION

MARVEL® COMICS

©1990 MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP INC

$1.75 US
$2.25 CAN
7
FEB
UK 85p

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

IF YOU LIKE GHOSTS AND GOBLINS — YOU'LL LOVE THIS ISSUE!

SPIDER-MAN®

PART 2 OF 2

THE GHOST RIDER WANTS THE HOBGOBLIN™ AND SPIDEY'S® CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE!

McFARLANE

GOD, NO.

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

DIDN'T YOU KILL ENOUGH *ALREADY?!* ARE YOU THAT *SICK* THAT YOU'D MAIM AN INNOCENT CHILD'S FACE?

MY DISCIPLE HAS THE MARK OF TRUTH. YOUR LIES CAN NO LONGER INFECT HIM.

WE ARE NOW PROTECTED BY ONE WITH MORE POWER THAN YOURS.

CHILD, TELL THE *DEVIL* WHERE YOUR ALLEGIANCE IS.

IT'S OKAY, SPIDEY, MR. GOBLIN IS ONLY TRYING TO GET RID OF THE BAD PEOPLE...

...AND HELP THE GOOD.

HE SENT MY *MOMMY* TO HEAVEN.

Stan Lee PRESENTS:

TODD McFARLANE
ARTIST/WRITER

JIM NOVAK
GUEST LETTERER

GREGORY WRIGHT
COLORIST

JIM SALICRUP
EDITOR

TOM DeFALCO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

EVIL!

ITS BEACON IS STATIONED HERE!

LUCIFER! THE SPIDER-DEVIL HAS SENT FOR LUCIFER HIMSELF!

WHA...!?

IS THE WHOLE WORLD GOING NUTS!?

NOT ALL OF IT, BUT SOMEONE MUST HELP BRING ORDER TO THE ABSURD.

TONIGHT, THE SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE HAS A MISSION.

MASQUES PART 2

SO NOW MY ACTIONS MUST ENDURE THE WRATH OF SATAN. BE WARNED, WICKED ONE, YOUR EVIL WILL NOT TEMPT ME.

KID... WATCH IT!

MY FAITH SHALL BE YOUR DOWNFALL. I WILL CONQUER YOUR EVIL, THEN WATCH YOU BEG FOR FORGIVENESS.

FOOL, I AM THE GHOST RIDER. I PROTECT THE INNOCENT FROM THOSE LIKE YOU.

TWELVE PEOPLE ARE DEAD. YOU WILL PAY DEARLY FOR YOUR CRIMES.

SOCIETY CANNOT CONTINUE TO LIVE IN FEAR OF THOSE WHO PREY UPON THE WEAK.

KID, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? DOES IT HURT?

PLEASE, SPIDER-MAN, YOU'VE GOTTA HELP MR. GOBLIN. HE DOESN'T WANT TO *HURT* ANYONE.

HE'S OUR *FRIEND.*

BLASPHEMER! I'VE DEALT WITH YOUR KIND! ALWAYS DENYING YOUR WAYS... TRYING TO TRICK US!

YOUR INSANITY WILL NOT HELP YOU.

IT'S TIME TO SUFFER FOR YOUR EVIL.

EVIL! LUCIFER ***HIMSELF*** CALLING ME EVIL. HOW ***DARE*** YOU JUDGE ME. IT IS SCUM (FORGIVE ME, FATHER) LIKE YOU WHO MUST BE DESTROYED.

MAKE YOUR MOVE.

TO ME, MY SLED.

YOU ARE ABOUT TO ENCOUNTER WHAT HAPPENS WHEN GOOD MEETS EVIL...

HEAD ON!

COME.

NO!

THIS IS GETTING WAY OUT OF CONTROL. IF I DON'T DO SOMETHING, WE COULD ALL DIE!

KID! **WHATEVER** YOU DO, DON'T MOVE! I'M ABOUT TO HELP OUR **FRIENDS!**

DO NOT GLOAT EVIL ONE. YOU'VE NOW FORCED ME TO CALL UPON MY **FATHER** FOR POWER AND ENCOURAGEMENT.

BEHOLD HIS GIFT!

GREAT.

IF HOBGOBLIN EVER MANAGES TO CONTROL HIS NEW POWERS, WE'RE ALL GONNA BE *TOAST!*

UUNGH!!

STAND ASIDE HERO...

IT'S TIME TO TEACH THIS *WORM* THAT HE CAN'T HARM THE INNOCENT...

...WITHOUT BEING *PUNISHED!*

HEY! WHAT'RE YOU, DOING, YA *FLAMIN' IDIOT?!*

LISTEN, I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOUR ACTIONS, GHOST RIDER. I DON'T NEED SOME ROOKIE CAUSING ME HEADACHES. THE GOBLIN WANTS ME!

JUST BACK OFF AND GIVE ME SOME BREATHING ROOM. I'LL YELL IF I NEED HELP.

YOU ARE NOT THE ONLY ONE HERE WITH POWER, HERO.

SO, THE DEVIL AND DEMON FIGHT AMONGST THEMSELVES.

DO NOT PUSH ME, SPIDER. THE EVIL YOU SEEK TO BEAT HAS FAR MORE RESOURCES THAN YOU WILL KNOW.

THANKS FOR THE CONCERN, PAL, BUT THERE'S A LITTLE BOY CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF ALL THIS.

THE CHILD?

I DO NOT WISH TO SEE YOU HURT.

YOU HAVE THE CHILD!

NEVER! NEVER WILL YOU CONVERT THE BOY. HE IS PURE. HE IS TRUE.

ALL YOUR LIES HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO HIM.

HIS SOUL IS MINE.

RETURN THE BOY!

YOU'RE PSYCHO, GOBLIN! YOU'LL KILL US ALL IF YOU DON'T STOP! THE BUILDING CAN'T TAKE THIS!

WHERE IS HE, SATAN?! SHOW ME THE BOY!

IS ANYBODY LISTENING TO ME?

TALK! WHY ARE YOU SILENT NOW? WHERE ARE YOUR BOASTS?

I SWEAR I'LL KILL YOU, DEVIL! NOW WHERE IS THE BOY?!

DO NOT TRY TO SCARE ME.

BETTER THAN YOU HAVE TRIED. AND FAILED.

KID, IT'S TIME TO GET OUTTA HERE AND I MEAN FAST.

WHERE'S MR. GOBLIN? I WANT HIM TO COME TOO.

DIE!

FOOL.

SPIDER-SENSE TINGLING--NOW WHAT!?

NOTHING CAN STOP ME.

I'M HERE TO PROTECT THE *INNOCENT.*

GHOST RIDER! THE BOY AND I ARE LEAVING. YOU WANT THE GOBLIN SO BAD, HE'S YOURS. JUST LET ME GET THIS INNOCENT KID OUTTA HERE.

EXCUSE ME IF I'M NOT *STUNNED* AT YOUR RESULTS SO FAR.

PREPARE YOURSELVES, *DEMONS!!* YOU HAVE PUSHED ME TO THE LIMITS, SENT YOUR HORDES TO TAUNT AND RIDICULE MY LOOKS. BUT I'VE ELIMINATED THEM ONE BY ONE.

NO LONGER WILL THEY SPEAK THEIR LIES THAT I HAVE THE *MARK* OF THE DEVIL. THEIR EVIL WAYS ARE NO MORE. STILL, YOU SEEK TO *CORRUPT* THE CHILD. HE AND I WILL DIE FOR OUR CAUSE, BEFORE THE LIKES OF YOU POSSESS US.

I GIVE YOU ONE LAST CHANCE. *REPENT! REPENT!*

HE IS TRULY MAD.

BUD, YOU DON'T KNOW THE HALF OF IT. HE'S GONE *NUTS* NOT ACCEPTING HIS CHANGE INTO A *REAL* GOBLIN.

MR. GOBLIN! DOWN HERE! PLEASE HELP US!

LISTEN UP, KID--

SAY, WHAT'S YOUR NAME ANYWAY?

ADAM.

HOW APPROPRIATE.

I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR GAMES. SO JUST STAY HERE AND DON'T MOVE A *MUSCLE*. IT'S TIME FOR ME TO TAKE THE OFFENSIVE.

I'LL BE BACK WHEN I'M FINISHED WITH THIS MESS.

DIE!

DIE!

DIE!

ONLY THEN WILL YOU KNOW THE TRUTH!

I HAVE THE POWER! I HAVE THE FAITH!

WHY DON'T YOU SHUT UP?!

FATHER, FORGIVE THEM! THEY KNOW NOT THEIR EVIL DEEDS!

IT IS TIME TO TAKE THE BOY, MY *DISCIPLE*, AND LEAVE THIS HOUSE OF HORRORS.

VICTORY WILL BE OURS ANOTHER TIME.

FORGET WHAT I SAID, ADAM! *RUN!* *RUN!*

MR. GOBLIN, PLEASE STOP.

THEY SHALL GUIDE US TO A BETTER WORLD, A BETTER WAY.

YOUR MOTHER WOULD BE SO PROUD OF YOU-- UH--

I'M SORRY, CHILD, BUT WE CAN NEVER STOP. OUR CAUSE--OUR MISSION WILL *FOREVER* BE CHALLENGED. WE CANNOT LET OUR MINDS AND BODIES BE WEAKENED.

ENDURANCE--

--AND FAITH.

ADAM.

ADAM?! OF COURSE.

THANK YOU, FATHER. YOUR RIGHTEOUS WAYS AGAIN HUMBLE ME.

COME, ADAM, LET'S GO MAKE A NEW GARDEN. WHERE ALL THINGS GOOD SHALL DWELL AND PEOPLE WILL LIVE FOREVER.

THAT'S WHERE YOU SENT MY MOMMY, *RIGHT?*

YOUR MOTHER WAS NOT ONE OF US, DEAR CHILD.

LET US PRAY.

NO. NO.

GHOST RIDER! HE HAS THE BOY! SLOW DOWN! YOU'RE GOING TO KILL 'EM! CAN'T YOU SEE HE *HAS THE BOY?!*

THE BOY.

GOD SAVE HIM.

NO.

NOT GOD.

ADAM! ADAM! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

--MOMMY--

NOW, SAINT--

IT'S TIME TO PAY THE PRICE!!

UNNGH

FEEL WHAT REAL POWER IS. NOT SOME DELUSION OF FAITH.

THIS, IS REAL.

BACK OFF!

THE GOBLIN'S OUT COLD, RIDER.

YOU MAKE ONE MOVE AND YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO GO *THROUGH ME.*

CAN'T YOU SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING? ***WE'RE*** THE HEROES! DO YOU UNDERSTAND? WE SAVE THE INNOCENT AT ANY COST.

NOT ***COST*** THE INNOCENT DURING A SAVE.

YOU WERE SO BLINDED BY YOUR JUSTICE, THAT YOU ***FORGOT*** WHO IT WAS YOU WERE PROTECTING.

YOU'RE GOOD, 'RIDER, BUT NOT *THAT* GOOD. YOU STILL NEED TO LEARN THE RESPONSIBILITIES THAT HAVE BEEN GIVEN YOU.

YEAH, IT'S OUR JOB TO STOP CREEPS LIKE THE GOBLIN, BUT OUR *MAIN* GOAL--

--OUR *MAIN* CONCERN, IS TO PROTECT--

--THE ADAMS OF THIS WORLD.

HE'S GOING TO NEED MEDICAL HELP.

THEN FIND IT.

BUT SOMEDAY THE HOBGOBLIN WON'T HAVE YOU THERE TO SAVE HIM.

THEN I'LL HAVE MY VENGEANCE.

GOOD-BYE--

--HERO.

HE DOESN'T GET IT.

PLAYING SUPER HERO ISN'T A GAME. IT'S FATE. WE CHOOSE TO DO GOOD. CHOOSE TO DO BAD.

WE HAD A CHOICE.

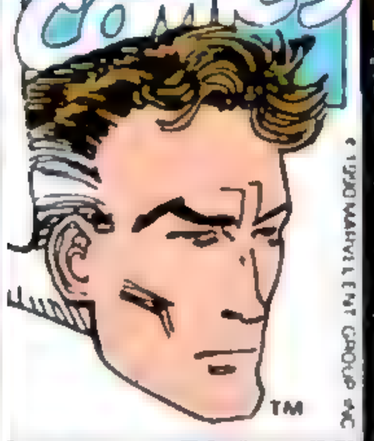
BUT YOU DIDN'T, DID YOU, ADAM? YOUR MOM IS GONE. I HOPE WE CAN FIND YOUR DAD. PUT YOUR LIFE BACK TOGETHER.

NOW YOU MUST ***CHOOSE***. LET THIS RUIN YOUR LIFE OR USE IT FOR SOME POSITIVE PURPOSE. THE DECISION WILL PROVE JUST WHO IS--

"--THE *REAL* HERO."

NEXT: WOLVERINE!

MARVEL COMICS



$1.25 US
$1.75 CAN
64
UK 65p

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

© 1990 MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC.

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS™

WOLVERINE®

AND

GHOST RIDER®

BAD BLOOD!

PLUS MORE ALL NEW FEATURES 3

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #64-71

WRITER: **HOWARD MACKIE** • PENCILER: **MARK TEXEIRA**
INKER: **HARRY CANDELARIO** • COLORIST: **GREGORY WRIGHT** • LETTERER: **CLEM ROBINS**
ASSISTANT EDITOR: **KELLY CORVESE** • EDITOR: **TERRY KAVANAGH**

ACTS OF VENGEANCE

PART ONE

GHOSTS OF THE PAST

STARRING: GHOST RIDER AND WOLVERINE

I COME HERE FOR THE BEER, NOT FOR THE COMPANY.

MADRIPOOR...

TYPICAL NIGHT IN A TYPICAL MADRIPOORIAN DIVE

MOSTLY DRUNKEN SWABS WHO'VE BEEN OUT AT SEA TOO LONG.

BOOZE, BROADS AND...

SKRAK

...BREAKIN' EACH OTHERS' HEADS.

LUCKY BRANDY. SHE MAY GET TO GO HOME WITH ONE OF THESE CHARMERS.

I DON'T CARE WHAT THEY DO TO EACH OTHER...

...AS LONG AS THEY DON'T DISTURB MY DRINKIN'!

BROOKLYN...

SMACKIE'S BAR

WATANABE KARATE DOJO

BROOKLYN, LAND OF THE TOUGH GUYS--

--ONLY I'M NOT SO TOUGH.

NOT MUCH OF A FIGHTER EITHER

GROWING UP, MY BUDDY--**JACK D'AURIA**--ALWAYS TOOK CARE OF ME.

KARATE

EVERYONE KNEW JACK TOOK **KARATE** CLASSES.

SO THEY LEFT LITTLE **DAN KETCH** ALONE.

JACK IS STILL LOOKING OUT FOR ME.

AND STILL STUDYING KARATE.

GREAT! THREE DRUNKS THAT WANT TO PROVE THEMSELVES TO BE TOUGH GUYS.

KARATE-KID, SHOW US WHAT YOU GOT!

REAL INTELLECTS THESE TWO.

THEY'VE GOT THE ENTIRE BAR VOTIN' ON WHO BRANDY GETS TO GO HOME WITH.

LOOKS LIKE IT'S A TIE.

GUESS WHO GETS TO BE THE TIE-BREAKER.

ONLY I DON'T FEEL LIKE VOTIN'.

DON'T FEEL MUCH LIKE FIGHTIN' EITHER. HAD A BELLYFULL WITH MY TEAMMATES, **THE X-MEN.**

LOOKS LIKE THEY AREN'T GIVIN' ME A CHOICE.

IN MADRIPOOR I'M KNOWN AS **PATCH**...

DECIDE!

...ELSEWHERE THEY CALL ME--

--**WOLVERINE.**

GRRRRR...

THEY'RE LOOKING FOR A FIGHT I CAN'T GIVE THEM.

DON'T **WANT** TO GIVE THEM.

I SEE ENOUGH VIOLENCE THROUGH **OTHER** EYES.

EYES FILLED WITH **PAIN.**

EYES THAT THESE THREE DON'T WANT TO LOOK INTO.

DO IT, BOY--

--OR BLEED!

CLICK

THE BOTTLES ARE SHARP...

...I'VE GOT SOMETHING SHARPER.

GO AWAY.

YOU AIN'T TOO FRIENDLY, UGLY!

LET'S DISH 'IM!

I DON'T NEED MY CLAWS FOR THEM.

THEIR BOTTLES WILL DO THE JOB.

I SAID-- GO AWAY!

BUT I LET THEM LIVE--

Y-Y-YES, SIR!

--DON'T WANT ANY OF THEIR BLOOD IN MY BEER.

THEY'RE GIVING ME NO CHOICE.

I NEED TO REACH THE BIKE, OR--

YEOW! MY ARM! I CAN'T FEEL MY ARM!

JACK.

HE STANDS COILED LIKE A STEEL SPRING.

...JACK TEACHES THEM OTHERWISE.

WHUD

THEY RUN.

IF I'D REACHED THE BIKE THEY WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SO LUCKY.

GOOD FOR THEM.

THE PUNKS THINK KARATEKA ARE FANCY DANCERS IN PAJAMAS...

FUN'S OVER.

AND MY BEER ISN'T EVEN FLAT.

GOOD THING, TOO, 'CAUSE THAT WOULD'VE **REALLY** MADE ME MAD.

TEN MUGS AND NOT EVEN A BUZZ..

...SOMETIMES MY **MUTANT HEALING FACTOR** IS A REAL PAIN.

LIKE MY INCREASED SENSE OF SMELL...

...IN A DIVE LIKE THIS IT CAN REALLY **GET** TO ME--

WAIT.

EVERYONE IS PUTTIN' OUT A LOT MORE SWEAT.

FEAR.

OF WHAT?

WHOA! PAJAMA-CLAD GUYS WITH SOME HEAVY-DUTY GUNS TRAINED ON ME.

WHO ARE THEY?

THE HAND?

NAH! THEY GO FOR MORE TRADITIONAL WEAPONS LIKE--

--A BLADE!

SHRAK!

JACK WANTS ME TO MEET HIS **SENSEI.**

BUT HE SENSES TROUBLE AHEAD.

WAIT HERE.

NO WAY.

IF THERE IS TROUBLE, I'M GOING TO DO MY BEST TO **HELP** JACK FOR A CHANGE.

MASKED MEN WITH SWORDS FIGHTING JACK'S SENSEI.

KRAK

POK

I'VE SEEN THEIR KIND BEFORE--

DEATH-WATCH'S MEN.

THEY'RE THE ONES RESPONSIBLE FOR MY SISTER **BEING** HURT, AND IN A WAY, FOR ME **BECOMING** WHAT I AM.

JACK AND HIS TEACHER ARE WAY OUTNUMBERED.

DAN, GO GET HELP!

UGPH!

THAT SHOULD TAKE CARE OF THESE THREE.

THE BAR'S CLEARED OUT. CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON THE MADRIPOORIAN CITIZENS.

IT SHOULD GIVE ME TIME TO PUT ON MY MASK IN CASE--

--ANYONE ELSE SHOWS UP.

OH, WELL--

SNIKT

--THIS IS WHAT I DO BEST.

I SAID--

--GET HELP!

KRASH!

LUCKY HE PULLED HIS KICK.

DON'T HAVE TIME TO GO FOR THE COPS. NEED TO GET TO THE--

--BIKE!

MY ONLY CHANCE TO HELP IS AS--

--GHOST RIDER!

THEY FOUGHT WELL.

THEY'RE NO HAND. BUT THEY'RE GOOD.

JUST ONE LEFT STANDING.

HE'S SCARED STIFF. I CAN SMELL IT.

SCARED, BUT NOT SO MUCH THAT HE WON'T FIGHT.

GOOD FOR HIM.

BUT NOT GOOD ENOUGH.

TIME TO ANSWER SOME QUESTIONS.

YOU KNOW WHAT WE WANT, OLD MAN.

TELL US WHERE HE IS AND WE WON'T KILL THE KID.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS YOU SEEK.

KILL *ME* IF YOU MUST.

KILL THE KID.

NO

HUH?

CRAK

HE'LL CRACK. I CAN TELL.

WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

WHO SENT YOU? WHY?

I CAN'T TELL YOU!

HE NEEDS SOME PRODDING.

SNIKT

NEXT ONE'S UP THE MIDDLE.

SAME QUESTIONS.

NEW YORK. I WAS SENT BY...DEATHWATCH. HE WANTS--

ARGHH!

THOK

SON--

--OF A...

FWOOM

OOF...

ENOUGH BLOODSHED.

SPOK!

KRAK!

AAAAGHH

WAK

THANK YOU FOR THE ASSISTANCE--

THUK

SWAK

--THE DISTRACTION IS ENOUGH TO EVEN THE ODDS.

WHAT MANNER OF DEMON ARE YOU THAT HELPS THE INNOCENT?

I AM A FRIEND.

I GUESS IT'S TIME TO GO BACK TO NEW YORK.

I WANT TO KEEP A LOW PROFILE, BUT I'M COMING FOR YOU--

--DEATHWATCH.

THIS IS TWICE, DEATHWATCH.

IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.

CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE...

ONLY POISON CAN KILL THE PAIN...
THE INVISIBLE WOMAN VS. THE INVISIBLE GIRL?!
RAGNAROCK AND ROLL WITH STARFOX!
MARVEL COMICS
$1.25 US
$1.75 CAN
65
02214
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS
WOLVERINE
AND
GHOST RIDER
BAPTISM OF FIRE!

ACTS OF VENGEANCE

PART TWO: CLAW & CHAIN

FEATURING WOLVERINE AND GHOST RIDER

YOU LEFT A TRAIL IN **MADRIPOOR** A BLIND MAN COULD FOLLOW.

I PICKED UP YOUR MEN'S **SCENTS** AT THE AIRPORT AND HAVE BEEN TRAILING THEM EVER SINCE.

YOU **WANT** ME TO FIND YOU.

WHAT TRAP IS WAITING FOR ME IN THIS CEMETERY?

THERE.

MEN DRESSED LIKE THE ONES THAT ATTACKED ME IN MADRIPOOR.

DON'T WANT TO MAKE A MOVE UNTIL I KNOW WHAT THEY HAVE IN STORE FOR ME.

WONDER WHAT'S IN THE **SACK.**

@#%$#-- A WOMAN!

ZZP

COULD BE PART OF THE TRAP.

SNIKT

CAN'T TAKE THE CHANCE.

SNIKT

HUH?!

FFT

TFT

FFT

DON'T WORRY, BOYS, I'LL COME BACK AND SHOW YOU THE *REAL* WAY TO USE THOSE SUCKERS...

...BUT FIRST--

WHAM

--I'VE GOT AN EXECUTION TO *STOP*.

I HOPE THE GIRL ISN'T A PART OF THE TRAP--

--I'M ALWAYS LECTURING **HAVOK** ABOUT LOSING HIS HEAD TO THE LADIES... LIKE HE ALMOST DID TO THAT **PLASMA** DAME BACK IN EGYPT*.

RRRRROAR

INCOMING AND FAST.

THEY SET ME UP TO BE TAKEN OUT BY A **MISSILE**?

A BIT OF OVERKILL. I'M GOOD, BUT...

WHO THE--?

LEAVE THE GIRL ALONE, DEATHWATCH ASSASSIN!

*MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS 24-31 --Terry

I SAID TO STAND BACK FROM THE GIRL, KILLER.

YOU MUST PREPARE TO FEEL THE **PAIN** YOU WOULD INFLICT ON HER--

--THE PAIN YOU HAVE INFLICTED ON OTHERS.

I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU THINK I AM, BUT I DON'T LIKE BEING ACCUSED OF ANYTHING!

YOU SEEM TO BE A PART OF THIS WHOLE SETUP. I WANT ANSWERS AND I WANT THEM--

--NOOOOOOOOW!

THANK YOU!

GO. BEFORE--

POOOOOM

HE'S STRONG. I'LL GIVE HIM THAT.

NOW LET'S SEE WHAT HE'S GOT UNDERNEATH THAT COSTUME OF HIS--

HUH?

HE'S ALL BONES.

A FOR-REAL DEMON?

NOT THE FIRST ONE I'VE RUN UP AGAINST.

THEY ALL FALL ONE WAY OR ANOTHER--

FWAM

YOU SEEK TO INFLICT PAIN, CLAWED ONE!

I WILL SHOW YOU THE TRUE MEANING OF PAIN.

THIS GUY'S A REGULAR JUGGERNAUT.

BUT EVEN OL' JUGHEAD HAS BEEN STOPPED BY ME AND THE X-MEN.

SHWAK

KLOOM

--ONE OF THE BEST SCRAPS I'VE HAD IN A WHILE.

THAT SHOULD PUT HIM OUT OF ACTION.

TOO BAD THOUGH--

NO!

WHAT THE--?

YOU MUST FEEL THE PAIN OF VENGEANCE.

THE PAIN THAT YOU HAVE INFLICTED ON THE INNOCENT.

PAIN THAT WILL SHRIVEL YOUR SOUL.

I DON'T KNOW ANY TRULY INNOCENT PEOPLE, BUB.

TOUGHER PEOPLE THAN YOU HAVE TRIED TO FOOL AROUND WITH MY MIND AND HAVE FOUND MORE PAIN IN THERE THAN THEY'VE KNOWN WHAT TO DO WITH.

SNIKT

MY ANSWER IS ALWAYS THE SAME--

--EAT THIS!

SHORTLY...

THE BOSS WAS RIGHT--

--THE FREAKS DONE OUR JOB FOR US.

PFFT PFFT

LET'S JUST MAKE SURE THEY DON'T GET UP.

AAAGH

KRAK

HUH?

WHO--

SNAP

I KNEW YOU'D COME. WHAT DO WE DO WITH THESE TWO?

LET'S TAKE THEM TO FATHER.

CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE...

THE CALAMITY OF Volstagg™

POISON™ IN HOT PURSUIT!

VALENTINO - ROSAS '90

MARVEL® COMICS

© 1990 MARVEL ENT GROUP INC

$1.25 US
$1.75 CAN
66
02214
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS™

WOLVERINE

AND

GHOST RIDER

THE THING FIGHTS ALONE!

PLUS A PARADE OF STARS

FIRE AND BLOOD!

ACTS OF VENGEANCE PART 3

DANCING IN THE DARK

FEATURING: WOLVERINE & GHOST RIDER

THIS ONE'S PULSE IS STRONG--BUT IT'S STARTING TO RACE AT AN INCREDIBLE RATE.

I AM GLAD TO SEE THAT YOU ARE SAFE, MY CHILDREN.

EMMALINE AND I CAN HANDLE THE SITUATION HERE, SON—

--GO AND MAKE SURE THERE ARE NO MORE ASSAS-SINS LURKING ABOUT.

YES, FATHER.

WILL THEY LIVE?

I THINK I CAN HELP THE CLAWED ONE IF WE GET HIM BACK HOME QUICKLY.

BUT THE DEMON--I JUST DON'T KNOW--I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN.

THE CLAWS...

...METAL...SUCH PAIN...MY PAIN!

RRROOOOMM

NEED REST.

IT APPEARS OUR HELP IS NOT NEEDED.

THE NEXT EVENING...

MY NAME IS WOLVERINE... I THINK.

MY MUTANT HEALING FACTOR IS KICKING IN.

IT'S ABOUT TIME.

WHERE AM I?

LAST THING I REMEMBER IS TRAILING DEATHWATCH'S MEN, THE FIGHT IN THE CEMETERY AND--

--THE FLAMES! AGAIN!

ELSEWHERE...

WHY IS IT THAT ALL ROADS SEEM TO LEAD ME TO THE SAME PLACE?

N.Y.U. MEDICAL CENTER

I SPENT SO MUCH TIME AT THIS HOSPITAL VISITING BARB BEFORE SHE WAS MURDERED.

NOW JACK.

SORRY, BUDDY, I JUST CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO SIT AT ANOTHER BEDSIDE AND WAIT FOR DEATH TO ARRIVE.

BUT I CAN FIND THE ONE THAT DID THIS TO YOU.

SNIKT!

DON'T KNOW HOW OR WHY THE LAST FIGHT ENDED--

--BUT I KNOW HOW THIS ONE'S GOING TO END.

KEESH

I.V. SLOWED ME DOWN.

PUMPED FULL OF DRUGS.

EVERYTHING'S STILL HAZY.

DOESN'T MATTER SINCE I TOOK CARE OF THE ONLY LIGHT IN THE ROOM.

OKAY, BUDDY. LET'S SEE WHO HANDLES HIMSELF BETTER IN THE DARK.

THE GAS CAP?

OH...

DEATHWATCH'S MEN STILL AFTER JACK.

WHY?

THIS GUY IS GOOD-- WHATEVER HE IS...

DEFINITELY A PRO.

HE'S DISGUISED HIS SCENT TO BLEND IN WITH THE ROOM.

AND I CAN BARELY HEAR HIM BREATHING--

--BARELY!

VENGEANCE--

--WILL BE--

--MINE!

YEAAH!

SHISSHHHH

SWINGING BLINDLY IN THE DARK ISN'T THE MOST EFFICIENT OF MY FIGHTING STYLES--

--BUT UNTIL MY HEAD CLEARS IT'S THE ONLY THING I CAN DO--

POK

UNGHH!

SEEMS LIKE HE'S NOT HAVIN' THE SAME DISADVANTAGE WITH THE DARKNESS.

SHISSSHHHH

DON'T OFTEN COME UP AGAINST ANY-ONE WITH BETTER SENSES THAN ME--

WOK

ANOTHER INNOCENT HAS FALLEN.

TCHINK

YOUR WEAPONS ARE NOTHING TO THE SPIRIT OF YENGEANCE--

--THE OPPONENT DOES NOT EXIST ON THIS EARTH THAT IS MY EQUAL.

PA-KOOOOOM

SHWIK

BINGO! DREW BLOOD.

I CAN LATCH ON TO THAT SMELL AND PIN HIM DOWN.

SHING

THAT'S IT!

COME TO POPPA!

NO! SEAN!

THE ONE WHO SENT YOU --DEATHWATCH-- WHAT DOES HE WANT WITH THE BOY?

SPEAK.

YOU MUST FEEL THE PAIN.

NO!

THE LIGHTS?

THUM

KRISH

MR. WOLVERINE, WE MUST TALK

I DID NOT THINK YOU WERE A KILLER, MY DEMONIC FRIEND!

TCHINK

IT IS TIME FOR US TO TALK!

TO BE CONTINUED...

MARVEL COMICS

TM

© 1990 MARVEL ENT GROUP INC

$1.25 US
$1.75 CAN
67
CC 02214
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS™

WOLVERINE®

AND

GHOST RIDER®

PLUS 3 MORE ALL-NEW FEATURES

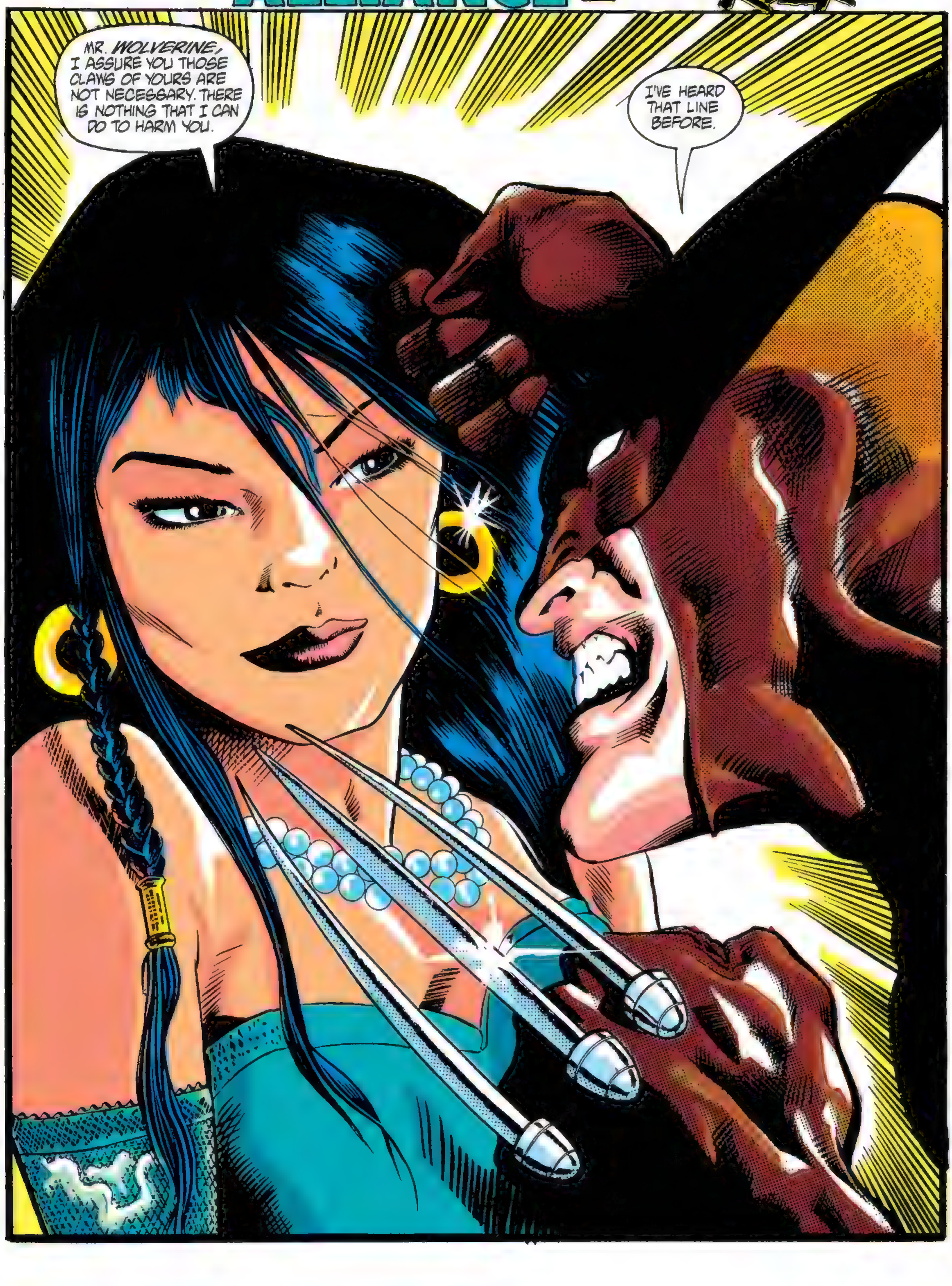
DEATHWATCH!

ACTS OF VENGEANCE

PART 4 UNEASY ALLIANCE

STARRING

WOLVERINE AND GHOST RIDER



I'VE HAD MORE WOMEN TRY THAT LINE ON ME THAN YOU HAVE PANTIES, AND MOST EVERYONE OF THEM TRIED TO BUST ME UP ANYWAY--

--SO FORGIVE ME IF I DON'T TRUST YOU UNTIL I FIND OUT WHERE I AM AND WHAT'S GOING ON.

EXCUSE ME?

NOTHIN'! JUST THINKIN' OUT LOUD!

HEAD SPINNIN' AGAIN--

--MUTANT HEALING FACTOR HASN'T GOTTEN RID OF ALL THE DRUGS YET.

WHO WAS THE MONKEY THAT JUMPED ME?

WAS IT THE SAME ONE FROM THE CEMETERY?

WELL, MISS INNOCENT...

YOU ARE NOT WELL. LET ME HELP YOU!

NO!

WHO WAS HE? WHERE IS HE? WHAT'S GOING ON?

I'M RUNNING OUT OF PATIENCE.

TIME TO SCARE HER A LITTLE!

TCHINK

CHH-KNG

WHAT THE--?

LEAVE THE GIRL ALONE!

IT **WAS** HIM. THE ONE FROM THE CEMETERY.

I'M GETTIN' PRETTY TIRED OF THIS ENTIRE SCENE. IT'S TIME TO PUT AN END TO IT--

--NOW!

YOU'RE FAST!

BUT I'M MAD!

STOP THIS--

--NOW!

OUT OF MY WAY, OLD MAN!

I'LL BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO GIVE YOU A GO ONCE I'M DONE SLICING UP THE DEMON!

STOP..

--LOGAN-SAN!

HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?

WE HAVE SEVERAL MUTUAL ACQUAINTANCES. BUT THAT IS NOT IMPORTANT NOW. WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THAT MY SON AND YOURSELF--

--HAVE BEEN MARKED FOR DEATH!

I WOULD LIKE TO HELP YOU, SO THAT YOU CAN HELP MY SON.

LEATHER BOY HERE YOUR SON?

N...

NO. AND DESPITE HIS APPEARANCE HE IS A FRIEND...

...OR AT LEAST WE ALL SHARE THE SAME ENEMY--

--DEATHWATCH.

WOLVERINE, YOU NEED REST BEFORE YOU CAN DO ANYTHING.

I TOLD YOU BEFORE, GIRL--

LEAVE ME ALONE!

IF YOU'D HAVE STOPPED TRYING TO HELP ME I'D HAVE BEEN FINE HOURS AGO!

BRIGITTE, LEAVE US. GO FIND SEAN AND BRING HIM TO ME!

THIS SON OF YOURS, IS HE THE ONE I TANGLED WITH EARLIER?

YES.

GOOD. I'D LIKE TO MEET HIM AGAIN.

I ASSURE YOU, LOGAN-SAN, MY SON IS NOT YOUR ENEMY.

YOUR ENCOUNTER WITH HIM WAS DUE STRICTLY TO MISTAKEN IDENTITY AND BOTH OF YOUR EXPLOSIVE TEMPERS.

NO!

LISTEN.

I HEAR NOTHING--

BRIGITTE!

SNIKT

TCHINK

SHING

BOOOOOH

"WELL, IF IT AIN'T THE TEENAGE NINJA DEATHWATCHERS? AND HERE I WAS COUNTIN' ON A REAL SCRAP."

"DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE ABILITIES OF DEATHWATCH'S MEN, WOLVERINE."

"I NEVER UNDERESTIMATE ANYONE, YUJI--IT'S JUST THAT I'M THE BEST AT WHAT I DO-- "

-AND *THIS* IS WHAT I DO BEST!

BTASH

C'MON, GUYS, NINJAS ARE OUT OF FASHION! STOP WHILE YOU'RE AHEAD.

MUCH BLOOD HAS BEEN SPILLED HERE TODAY --NONE OF IT INNOCENT.

THEY ARE ALL COMPLETELY WILLING TO DIE FOR DEATHWATCH.

IT IS NOT WE WHO WILL DIE, OLD MAN--

--IT IS YOU AND ALL OF YOUR FAMILY IF YOU DON'T GIVE US YOUR SON AND THE MUTIE!

I'M RIGHT HERE FOR THE TAKING, YOU *GQ* REJECTS!

RESTRAIN YOURSELVES! WE MUST LEARN OF BRIGITTE'S WHEREABOUTS FIRST!

YES, OLD MAN-- BRIGITTE.

A LOVELY YOUNG LADY. GORGEOUS SKIN, SUCH A SMART DRESSER AND--

MORE PARTS OF THE DEAR CHILD WILL FOLLOW WITH EACH HOUR YOU DELAY IN TURNING YOUR SON OVER TO US!

THE MUTANT WE CAN HANDLE OURSELVES.

--SUCH LOVELY HAIR!

C'MON AND HANDLE ME, CUTIES. LET'S SEE HOW GOOD YOU ARE WITH THOSE SWORDS WHEN THEY'RE STICKING OUT OF YOUR--

CLASHING

POOM

FWAAM

BRING THEM TO US, OLD MAN--

--OR THE GIRL IS OURS TO DO WITH AS WE WISH!

WHERE ARE THEY?

OKAY, YUJI, WE'LL DO IT YOUR WAY...

THEY HAVE GONE AND WE MUST NOT ACT RASHLY. BRIGITTE'S LIFE IS AT STAKE.

--BUT WHAT DOES DEATHWATCH WANT WITH YOUR SON AND ME?

I CAN ANSWER THAT, WOLVERINE. MY NAME IS SEAN WATANABE--

--THEY CALL ME BRASS!

WE'VE GOT TO MOVE QUICKLY. MY SISTER'S LIFE IS IN DANGER--

AND THEY'VE KIDNAPPED JACK D'AURIA FROM THE HOSPITAL.

CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE...

MARVEL COMICS

TM

©1990 MARVEL ENT. GROUP, INC.

$1.25 US
$1.75 CAN
68
CC 02214

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS™

WOLVERINE®

AND

GHOST RIDER®

PLUS 3 MORE ALL-NEW FEATURES!

HOG WILD!

GULACY

ACTS OF VENGEANCE

PART 5

MUTANTS, NINJAS & DEMONS

FEATURING

INNOCENT BLOOD MUST BE PROTECTED--

WHOOM!

--MUST BE AVENGED.

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, KID, BUT I'M NOT MUCH OF A WAITER.

SEAN, YOU AND LOGAN-SAN WAIT HERE. I WILL JOIN THE DEMON-RIDER.

ME NEITHER --LET'S GO!

ANY IDEAS AS TO WHERE TO START?

YEAH.

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

YOU SURE THEY'RE GOING TO COME THIS WAY?

ABSOLUTELY. THEY COULDN'T HAVE REGROUPED AND GOTTEN HERE ANY FASTER THAN THE ROUTE I TOOK US THROUGH. AND IF THEY ARE HEADING BACK TOWARDS DEATH-WATCH, THIS IS THE SHORTEST ROUTE BACK INTO THE CITY.

BESIDES, I'M GOOD AT ANTICIPATING WHAT AN OPPONENT WILL DO NEXT.

YEAH! I NOTICED THAT DURING THE FIGHT WE HAD BACK IN THE BASEMENT. YOU SEEMED TO KNOW WHAT I WAS GOING TO THROW EVEN BEFORE I DID.

I DID.

HERE THEY ARE.

TIME TO STOP AND CHOP.

I'LL DO THE STOPPING AND YOU CAN--

GRENADES?

CLIK

WHAT ABOUT YOUR SISTER?

LET ME WORRY ABOUT 'GITTE.

ELSEWHERE...

THIS IS TRULY A MAJESTIC VEHICLE. I THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO ACCOMPANY YOU.

BUT WHY IS IT THAT THE FLAMES DO NOT BURN ME?

AND HOW IS IT THAT IT IS ABLE TO DO SUCH WONDROUS THINGS?

I DON'T KNOW.

THE SPIRIT OF YENGEANCE IS MINE TO COMMAND.

AND I STILL SEARCH FOR THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS AND MANY OTHERS.

AT THAT MOMENT...

WHAT IS THIS, A NINJA CLOWN MACHINE?

THERE ARE MORE OF THESE PAJAMA CLAD GUYS THAN MADRIPOOR HAS CRIMINALS.

AND THEY'RE GETTING ON MY NERVES.

YOU SHOULD WATCH YOUR BACK, WOLVERINE!

YOU, TOO--

--LITTLE HALF BREED.

BACK IN MANHATTAN...

UP AHEAD IS THE BUILDING BELONGING TO DEATHWATCH. WE STOP HERE AND APPROACH WITH STEALTH.

IT SEEMS AS THOUGH WE ARE EXPECTED.

WE SHOULD NOT DISAPPOINT THESE GENTLEMEN.

BOOM

WE ARE WASTING TIME.

VENGEANCE MUST BE SERVED.

BROOKLYN...

GOODBYE, LITTLE BOY!

NO TIME TO STOP THEM.

NO TIME TO WARN HIM.

HUH?

ZZZT

THERE IS MORE TO BRASS THAN MEETS THE EYE.

COULD HE BE A MUTANT?

YOU KNEW THE BLAST WAS COMING. HOW?

LATER.

NOW THAT WE'VE WHITTLED DOWN THE ODDS, LET'S TAKE A VAN AND GO AFTER MY SISTER.

FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER...

ARE YOU SURE THIS IS IT?

HARRY HARTZBERG GOOD LAW!

ACME CONSTRUC

PARK

HARKNESS RUGS

VIDEO

I COULD SMELL YOUR SISTER'S PERFUME A MILE AWAY. THIS IS IT.

LET'S DO IT THEN!

WAIT.

WE WILL HAVE TO PROCEED WITH CAUTION. THE *GHOST RIDER* IS ALREADY INSIDE, HE SEEMS QUITE EAGER FOR VENGEANCE--

--I WOULD SUGGEST THAT WE ATTEMPT TO STAY OUT OF HIS WAY.

CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE...

MARVEL COMICS

© 1990 MARVEL ENT GROUP, INC.

TM

$1.25 US
$1.75 CAN
69
CC 02214
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS™

WOLVERINE®

AND

GHOST RIDER

STREETS OF HELL!

PLUS 3 MORE ALL NEW FEATURES!

ACTS OF VENGEANCE

PART 6

BRASS TACTICS

FEATURING WOLVERINE AND GHOST RIDER

--AND I'VE BEEN LED AROUND BY A BUNCH OF PEOPLE WHO CLAIM TO KNOW WHO I AM.

THIS ISN'T LIKE ME.

I'M GETTING SOME ANSWERS NOW.

LOOKS LIKE THE GHOST RIDER CLEARED THE WAY FOR US.

I'M GOING IN TO GET BRIGITTE.

NOT YET, KID! I WANT SOME ANSWERS.

BACK OFF, MUTIE!

KRUNCH

YOU WANT TO GET, PERSONAL, SONNY?

SNIKT

YEAH-- OKAY!

AACH!

STUPID YOUTH. DO NOT SHED YOUR ALLY'S BLOOD.

IT APPEARS THAT NOW WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO GIVE SOME ANSWERS, MY HOT-TEMPERED OFFSPRING.

PLEASE RELEASE HIM, GHOST RIDER.

AS YOU WISH, BUT VENGEANCE MUST BE CARRIED OUT.

SIT, LOGAN-SAN.

HERE?

IT WAS YOUR IDEA, SIR. BESIDES, IT IS FITTING THAT SECRETS BE REVEALED IN THE SHADOW OF OUR ENEMY'S STRONGHOLD.

WE CAN THEN ENTER WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF TRUTH ON OUR SIDE.

DAD, ARE YOU STILL WRITING FORTUNE COOKIES?

FWUMP!!

THANK YOU FOR SHOWING RESPECT FOR THE WISHES OF AN OLD MAN, MY SON.

I CAN SIT DOWN MYSELF.

PROCEED, BOY.

I'M A MARTIAL ARTIST PURE AND SIMPLE.

"MY FATHER STARTED TEACHING ME KATA AS SOON AS I COULD WALK.

"AND WHEN HE TAUGHT ME TO FIGHT I WAS HOOKED FOR LIFE.

"I KNEW I WANTED TO BECOME BETTER THAN HIM.

"WHEN I ENTERED COMPETITIONS, I LEARNED THAT I COULDN'T BE HIT.

"SOMEHOW I KNEW WHAT AN OPPONENT WAS GOING TO THROW AS SOON AS HE THOUGHT IT.

"IT GAVE ME AN EDGE.

"AS I GOT OLDER, I WAS FULL OF A SENSE OF PATRIOTISM FOR MY FATHER'S ADOPTED COUNTRY. I WANTED TO SERVE AS BEST I COULD--

"--SO I JOINED THE NAVY.

"I HAD NO TROUBLE QUALIFYING FOR THE S.E.A.L.S.*

"THEY TAUGHT ME TO FIGHT IN WAYS THAT I HAD NEVER THOUGHT OF.

*A SPECIAL COMMANDO FORCE OF THE U.S. NAVY. --TERRY

"THAT'S WHERE I PICKED UP MY NICKNAME--**BRASS**...

"...I ALWAYS WENT IN FOR THE JOBS THAT NO ONE ELSE WANTED.

"EVENTUALLY I MET A GIRL--THERESA.

"WE FELL IN LOVE."

"ONE DAY IN MANHATTAN WE WERE MAKING PLANS...

"...PLANS ON HOW WE WOULD SPEND THE REST OF OUR LIVES TOGETHER.

"FOR HER THAT WAS NOT GOING TO BE TOO LONG.

"WE WERE ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE SITE OF THE AVENGERS MANSION WHEN THE MANDARIN ATTACKED.

"THERESA PANICKED.

"BEFORE I COULD STOP HER SHE RAN OUT IN FRONT OF A CAR.

"SHE WAS KILLED.

"I LATER LEARNED THAT THE MANDARIN WAS PART OF AN OVERALL CONSPIRACY--

"--AND ON THAT DAY I VOWED TO KILL ALL THAT TOOK PART IN IT.

"THE MANDARIN, THE RED SKULL, THE KINGPIN, AND MAGNETO.

"I STARTED BY HITTING A FEW OF THE MANDARIN'S OPERATIONS HERE IN CHINATOWN--"

SNAP

BINGO!

THERE'S THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE TWO OF US. THE MANDARIN AND I HAD A RUN-IN A FEW MONTHS AGO. HE'S GOT NO GREAT LOVE FOR ME, I'M SURE.

BUT WHY'D THEY COME AFTER YOUR OTHER STUDENT, THE ONE THAT BROUGHT THE GHOST RIDER INTO THIS WHOLE THING?

UNFORTUNATELY, JACK, AS IS MY DAUGHTER, IS SIMPLY AN INNOCENT PAWN CAUGHT BETWEEN THESE DARK FORCES.

ENOUGH TALK.

HE'S RIGHT. LET'S GO!

I DON'T LIKE THIS.

WE'RE GETTING IN A LITTLE TOO EASILY.

AND WHERE IS GHOST RIDER'S BIKE--?

YOU ARE ON THE PRIVATE PROPERTY OF INTERNATIONAL CONTRACTORS UNLIMITED.

YOU HAVE TWO SECONDS TO VACATE THE PREMISES.

TIME'S UP!

BUDDA

BUDDA

BUDDA

EVERYONE REACTS AT ONCE.

THAKA-THAKA-THAKA

GHOST RIDER TAKES OUT A BUNCH OF THEM WITH HIS CHAIN.

BRASS USES LONGER RANGE WEAPONS.

AND THE KID CAN FIGHT.

A KNIFE AGAINST A GUN.

HIS NICKNAME SUITS HIM.

THEN AGAIN--I'M NO SLOUCH EITHER.

AND THE OLD MAN IS HOLDING HIS OWN.

WHO AM I KIDDING? HE'S COVERING MY TAIL.

GHOST RIDER'S JUST STANDING THERE TAKING ALL THE LEAD. GESTURING LIKE HE EXPECTS SOMETHING TO--

PING

TING

--HAPPEN.

OH SH--

BOOM

I GUESS I KNOW WHERE HIS BIKE WAS NOW.

BUT THE QUESTION IS--WHERE ARE HE AND BRASS GOING ON IT?

SKRASH

CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE...

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS™

WOLVERINE®

AND

GHOST RIDER

MARVEL COMICS

©1991 MARVEL ENT GROUP INC

$1.25 US
$1.75 CAN
70
UK 65p

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

SHANNA THE SHE-DEVIL™ INFILTRATES A FORTRESS OF EVIL!

DAREDEVIL® FIGHTS TO SAVE NEW YORK!

THE BLACK WIDOW™ AND DARKSTAR™ TEAM-UP TO BATTLE THE PRESENCE™ AND . . . STARLIGHT?!™

PLUS THREE MORE ALL-NEW FEATURES!

BAD TO THE BONE!

LIEFELD '90

ACTS OF VENGEANCE

PART 7

CONFESSION IS GOOD FOR THE SOULLESS

FEATURING WOLVERINE AND GHOST RIDER

AS MY COLONEL USED TO SAY, "IT PAYS TO BE SAFE--SO ALWAYS CARRY THE APPROPRIATE HARDWARE."

WHOOMM

THE COLONEL WAS ALWAYS RIGHT.

KRAKK

BUT SOMETIMES IT TAKES *MORE* THAN HARD-WARE.

:SNIFF:

TWO OF THEM UP THE STAIRS, AND THEY AIN'T TOO BIG ON PERSONAL HYGIENE.

WAIT HERE.

WHOP

CRAK

THUMP

SHALL WE PROCEED.

WHAT'S YOUR STAKE IN THIS THING, GHOST RIDER?
I AM THE SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE.
THE MEN WHO HOLD YOUR SISTER ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SPILLING OF MUCH INNOCENT BLOOD.
I WILL SEE TO IT THAT MORE IS SPILLED--
--AND THAT VENGEANCE IS METED OUT.
IT APPEARS THAT WE'RE BOTH IN THE VENGEANCE BUSINESS, DEMON--
--I'M JUST A LITTLE LESS DISCRIMINATE ABOUT WHO GETS IN MY WAY.
THOK
OUT OF MY WAY, YUJI!
LOGAN, I AM NOT YOUR ENEMY!
THUP
I KNOW.
CREAK
PLOP
I SEE.

I'M NOT GOING TO STOP UNTIL EVERYONE INVOLVED IN WHAT THE NEWSPAPERS CALLED "ACTS OF VENGEANCE" IS DEAD. THAT'S *MY* MISSION.

YOU KNOW, I'M USUALLY NOT MUCH OF A TALKER, BUT I GUESS I FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE CONFESSING TO A DEMON THAN I WOULD A PRIEST.

I CAN GET MORE TO THE *POINT* WITH YOU.

THOK THOK THOK THOK

TCHINK

I WISH THAT MY SON WOULD GIVE UP THIS VENDETTA. IT CAN ONLY LEAD TO MORE BLOOD.

YEAH ...KIDS.

THOOM

SNIFF

OKAY, KIDDO!

TIME TO COME OUT.

WOLVERINE SAYS THAT BRIGITTE AND JACK ARE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS DOOR--

--GHOST RIDER?

KRAK!

KWOOM!

BRIGITTE!

:NNNNNPH!:

CLIK

CLIK

CLIK

CLIK

CLIK

CLIK

WELCOME, GENTLEMEN.

I BELIEVE YOU KNOW THE *TRIAD BROTHERS.*

MY NAME'S *LANGLEY*--I ORCHESTRATED THIS ENTIRE SCENARIO.

I'D LOVE TO EXPLAIN--

SNAP

--BUT IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO *DIE.*

THE KID HAS ONE.

YUJI HAS ANOTHER.

THE THIRD IS HEADING MY WAY.

LUCKY ME.

UNLUCKY HIM.

AND WHILE YUJI AND BRASS ARE HOLDING THE OTHER TWO...

YEAHHH!

SORRY. I MISSED.

HMMPH!

TCHINK

WSSHHHHH

YOU HAVE CAUSED MUCH PAIN AND ANGUISH.

THROUGH MY PENANCE STARE IT WILL BE RETURNED TO YOU IN KIND.

KILL THEM ALL-- NOW!

HALT!

WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?

DEATHWATCH!

I CAN EXPLAIN EVERY-THING.

WE WILL DO IT *MY* WAY, LANGLEY!

NO. NO. NOT THAT. NOT--

--AAARGHHH!

CONCLUDES NEXT ISSUE...

MARVEL COMICS

© 1991 MARVEL ENT. GROUP, INC.

$1.25 US
$1.75 CAN
71
UK 65p

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

MARVEL® COMICS PRESENTS™

WOLVERINE®

AND

GHOST RIDER®

IN THE SHADOW OF DEATHWATCH...™

ACTS OF VENGEANCE

PART 8

THE END

FEATURING WOLVERINE AND GHOST RIDER

IT SEEMS AS THOUGH I MAY BE ABLE TO TURN A BUSINESS DEAL OUT OF THIS FIASCO AFTER ALL.

IT IS COMMONLY KNOWN THAT THE MANDARIN HAS DISMISSED THE *HAND* FROM HIS SERVICE, SO IF THE GHOST RIDER ELIMINATES TWO OF HIS MOST HATED ENEMIES THEN...

...GHOST RIDER, I MAY EVEN HAVE A PLACE FOR YOU IN MY ORGANIZATION.

YOU BOTH MUST DIE SO THAT NO MORE INNOCENT BLOOD WILL BE SPILLED TONIGHT.

SNIKT

NO WAY

BRASS! ;COUGH; WHAT ARE YOU DOING? ;COUGH; LET GO OF MY HAND!

;GURG; REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED LAST TIME YOUR CLAWS MADE CONTACT WITH HIM?

YOU GOT ANY IDEAS?

NO.. BUT I'M SURE HE ISN'T GOING TO KILL US--

FWOMP

SEE ;COUGH; HE LET US GO!

YEAH... BUT HERE HE COMES--

--AGAIN!

STOP, GHOST RIDER! YOU'RE KILLING THEM!

I AM DOING WHAT MUST BE DONE TO PROTECT INNOCENT LIVES, YUJI.

POOM

KRASH

PTAKK

WHY DOESN'T HE FINISH US?

JUST HANG ON, BRASS, I THINK MAYBE HIS SKULL ISN'T AS EMPTY AS IT LOOKS!

JUST BE READY TO ACT FAST.

TTMMM

THEY FOUND US! KILL THEM!

BBBRRP BUDDDDA

COULD'VE BEEN AN EASIER WAY TO GET US TO THE HOSTAGES, BUT YOU CAN'T ARGUE WITH THE RESULTS!

LET'S TAKE 'EM OUT, BRASS! AND WATCH THE KIDS!

I CAN HANDLE MY GUYS, YOU TAKE CARE OF YOUR OWN.

SCHWICK

RIGHT.

WAK

TCHINK

PTOOM

VERY CLEVER, GHOST RIDER.

TO THROW MY SON AND WOLVERINE THROUGH WALLS UNTIL YOU UNCOVERED THE WHEREABOUTS OF BRIGITTE AND JACK.

CLEVER INDEED.

BRAVO, GHOST RIDER! CLEVER INDEED!

YOU APPEAR TO HAVE OUTWITTED ME AGAIN. WHO WOULD HAVE GUESSED? NEEDLESS TO SAY, I AM NOT A GOOD LOSER. AS YOU CAN SEE, THIS BUILDING IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION ANYWAY. I REALLY CAN'T ALLOW ANY OF YOU TO LIVE...

...AND AS I'VE ALREADY STATED--I MAY BE ABLE TO GET SOME BUSINESS OUT OF THIS ANYWAY. I'M BLOWING THE TOP OF THIS BUILDING--NOW. GOODBYE!

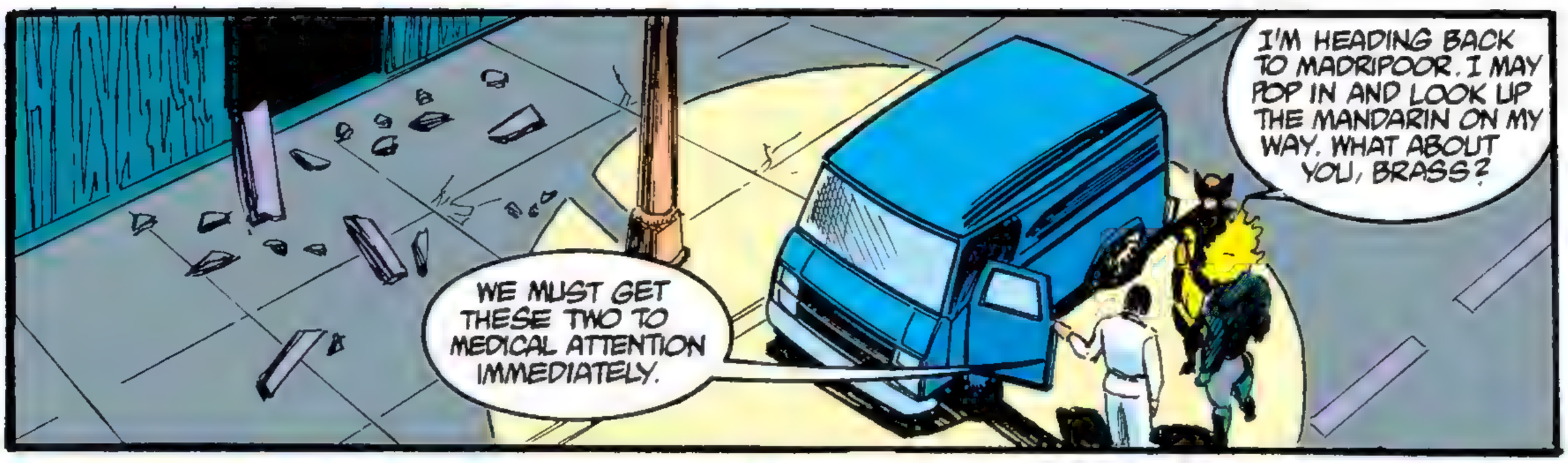
ANYONE HAVE AN IDEA?

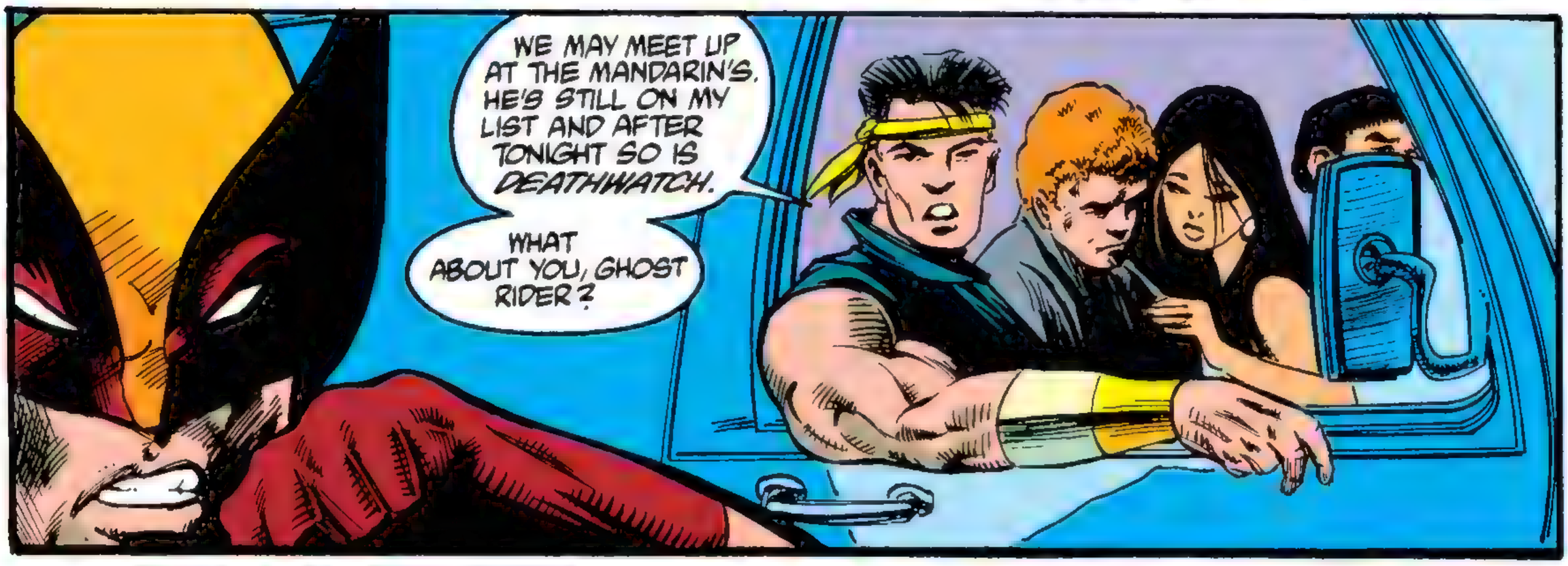
SECONDS LATER...

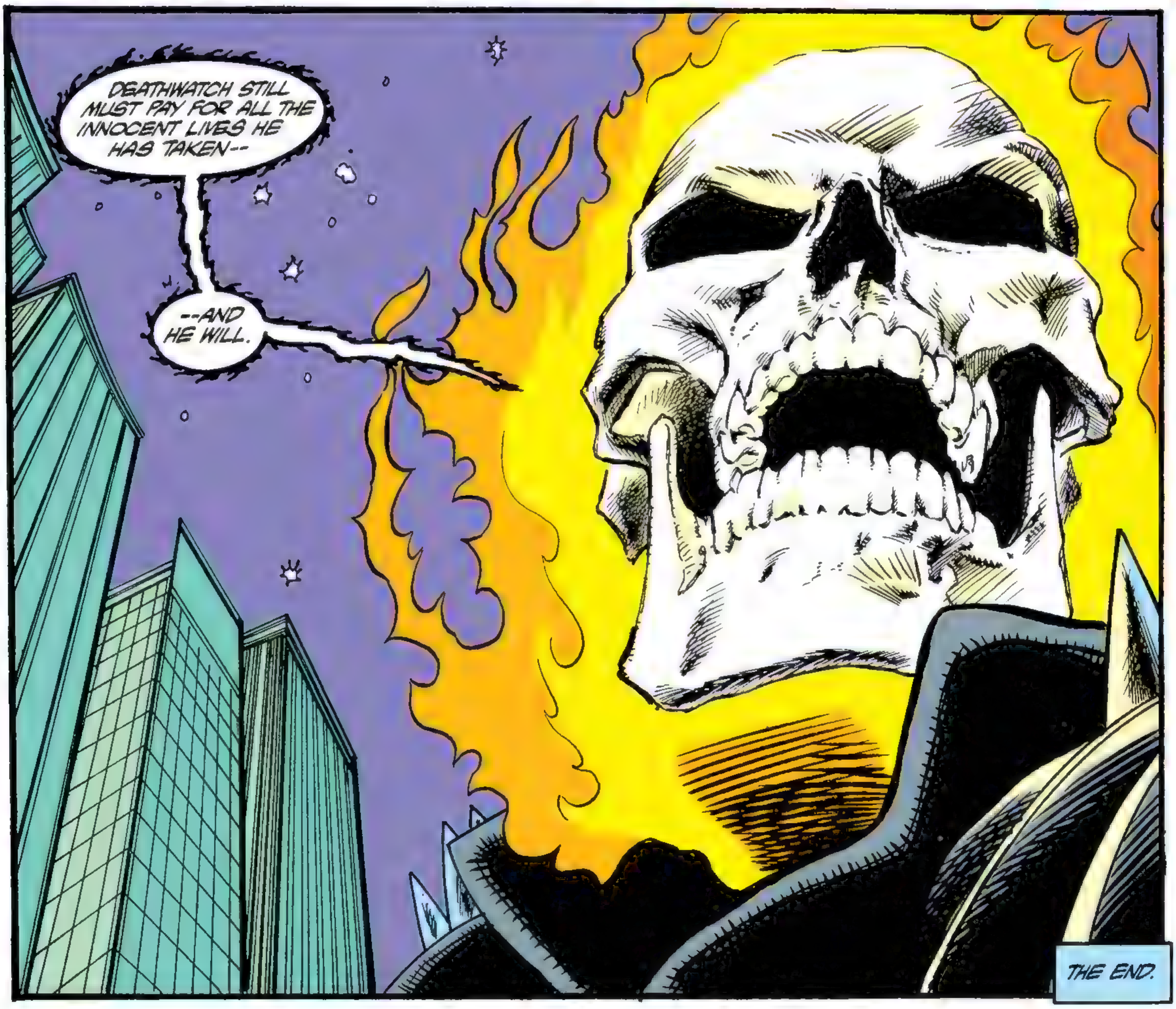
KERBLOOOOM

WHAT ELSE YOU CARRY IN THAT BAG OF TRICKS OF YOURS, BRASS?

THIS AND THAT.


WE MUST GET THESE TWO TO MEDICAL ATTENTION IMMEDIATELY.
I'M HEADING BACK TO MADRIPOOR. I MAY POP IN AND LOOK UP THE MANDARIN ON MY WAY. WHAT ABOUT YOU, BRASS?


WE MAY MEET UP AT THE MANDARIN'S. HE'S STILL ON MY LIST AND AFTER TONIGHT SO IS DEATHWATCH.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, GHOST RIDER?


DEATHWATCH STILL MUST PAY FOR ALL THE INNOCENT LIVES HE HAS TAKEN--
--AND HE WILL.
THE END.

MARVEL COMICS

$2.50 US
$3.00 CAN
25
APR
UK 60p

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE
AUTHORITY

GIANT-SIZE ISSUE!

Marc Spector: Moon Knight

ENTER: GHOST RIDER

THE FIST OF KHONSHU MEETS THE SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE!

LEFT TO DIE IN THE DESERT, SOLDIER-OF-FORTUNE **MARC SPECTOR** WAS MIRACULOUSLY REBORN IN THE TEMPLE OF KHONSHU, ANCIENT EGYPTIAN GOD OF THE MOON. NOW HE HAS BECOME A COSTUMED CRIMEFIGHTER TO ATONE FOR HIS MERCENARY PAST.

STAN LEE PRESENTS . . . MARC SPECTOR: MOON KNIGHT

--AND I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF THE OUTFITS THEY'RE WEARING.

GHOSTS OF THE PAST

THEY REMIND ME A LITTLE TOO MUCH OF ME--

--OR RATHER, OF KHONSHU.

AND AS I RECALL THERE IS ONLY ONE APPOINTED FIST TO THE EGYPTIAN MOON GOD--

--AND THAT'S ME!

HOWARD MACKIE
WRITER
MARK BAGLEY
BREAKDOWN ARTIST
TOM PALMER
FINISHER
KEN LOPEZ
LETTERER
SCHEELE & ROSAS
COLORISTS
DANNY FINGEROTH
EDITOR
TOM DeFALCO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

THREE OF 'EM DOWN AND--

BACK, FALSE ONE! WE WERE WARNED THAT A DECEIVER MIGHT COME FORWARD MASQUERADING AS THE APPOINTED OF KHONSHU.

BLASPHEMER!

--ONE LEFT!

WE ARE THE ONLY TRUE KNIGHTS OF THE MOON. WE ALONE SERVE THE MOON GOD.

OUR FAITH CANNOT BE TEMPTED.

OUR MISSION CANNOT BE STOPPED.

I GO NOW TO THE ARMS OF KHONSHU--

BTOOM

ROLLED WITH FORCE OF THE BLAST, OTHERWISE IT WOULD'VE TAKEN MY HEAD OFF!

BUT WHAT WAS HE TALKING ABOUT?

HE SAID HE SERVED KHONSHU.

HOW CAN THAT BE?

THANKS, BUDDY, WE CAN HANDLE IT FROM--

BRAPBRAPBRAP

--ARGH!

FRENCHIE! WE'VE GOT TWO MORE TERRORISTS UP ON THE STATUE. CAN YOU TAKE THEM OUT FROM THE MOON COPTER?

NO CAN DO, MARC.

WITH THE POSITION THEY'RE IN I'D WIND UP HITTING A LOT OF INNOCENT PEOPLE IF I TRIED AN AIR ASSAULT.

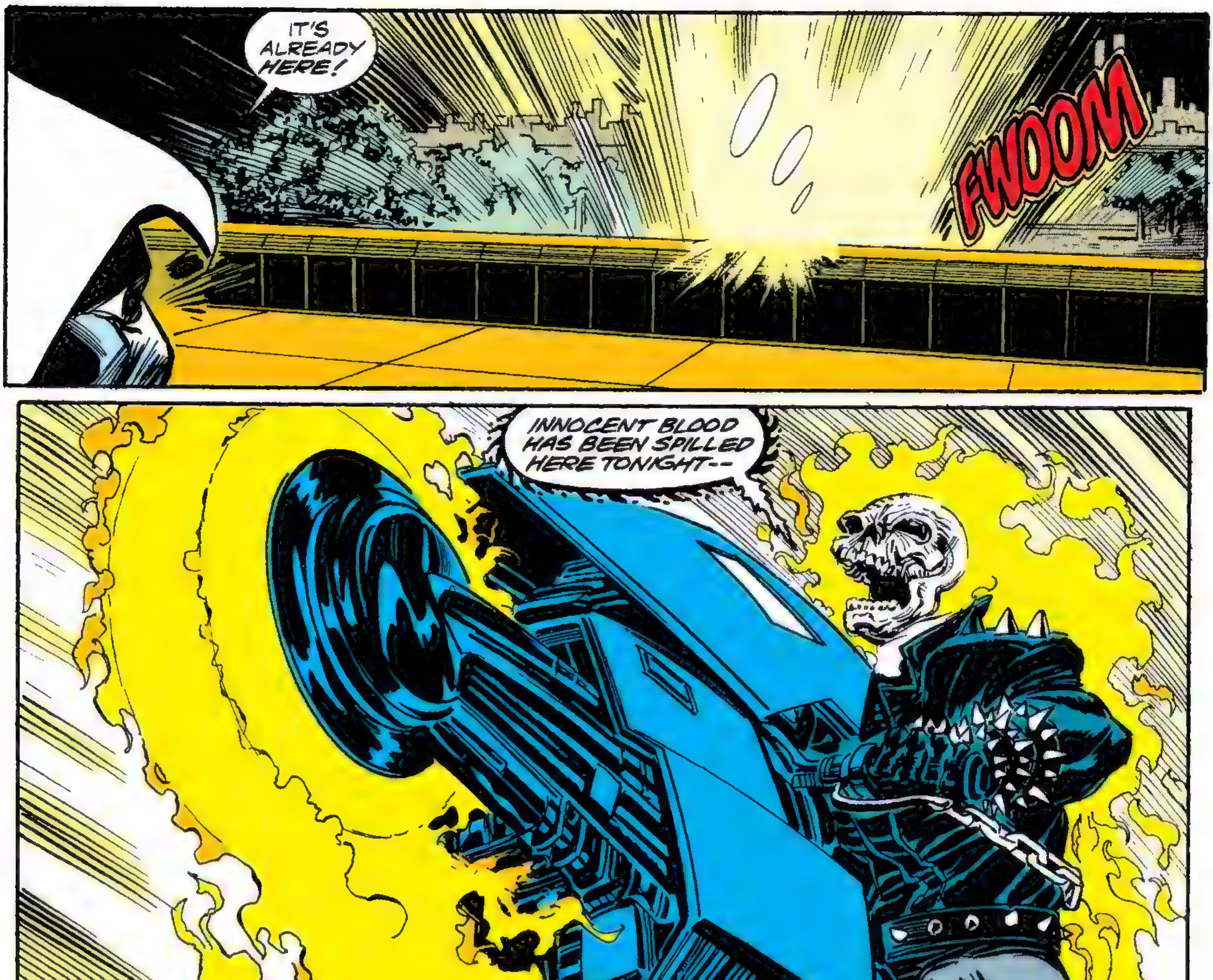
IT'S UP TO YOU, MARC.

GREAT.

MARC, LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT MORE PROBLEMS. A FLASH OF LIGHT AND A TRAIL OF FLAME.

LOOKS LIKE IT COULD BE A MISSILE--

--AND IT'S HEADING STRAIGHT FOR YOU!


IT'S ALREADY HERE!
FWOOM
INNOCENT BLOOD HAS BEEN SPILLED HERE TONIGHT--

—I WILL HAVE MY DUE!

THE GHOST RIDER I'VE BEEN READING ABOUT HIM IN THE NEWSPAPERS. I THOUGHT HE STUCK TO BROOKLYN.

WHAT THE #?%$@ IS THAT THING?

I DON'T KNOW. JUST SHOOT IT.

TCHINK

NO MORE BLOOD WILL BE SPILLED HERE TONIGHT.

THE PAIN YOU HAVE INFLICTED MUST BE RETURNED IN KIND.

OJEEZ! HE'S PULLING US OVERRRRRRR

HOW DOES HE DO THAT?

YOUR FRIEND HAS FELT THE SOUL-SEARING TOUCH OF MY PENANCE STARE.

IT IS NOW YOUR TURN, KILLER.

STOP!

YOU'RE KILLING THEM. I NEED THEM ALIVE. I HAVE TO KNOW WHO'S BEHIND THIS ATTACK--

--AND IF THERE ARE OTHERS PLANNED.

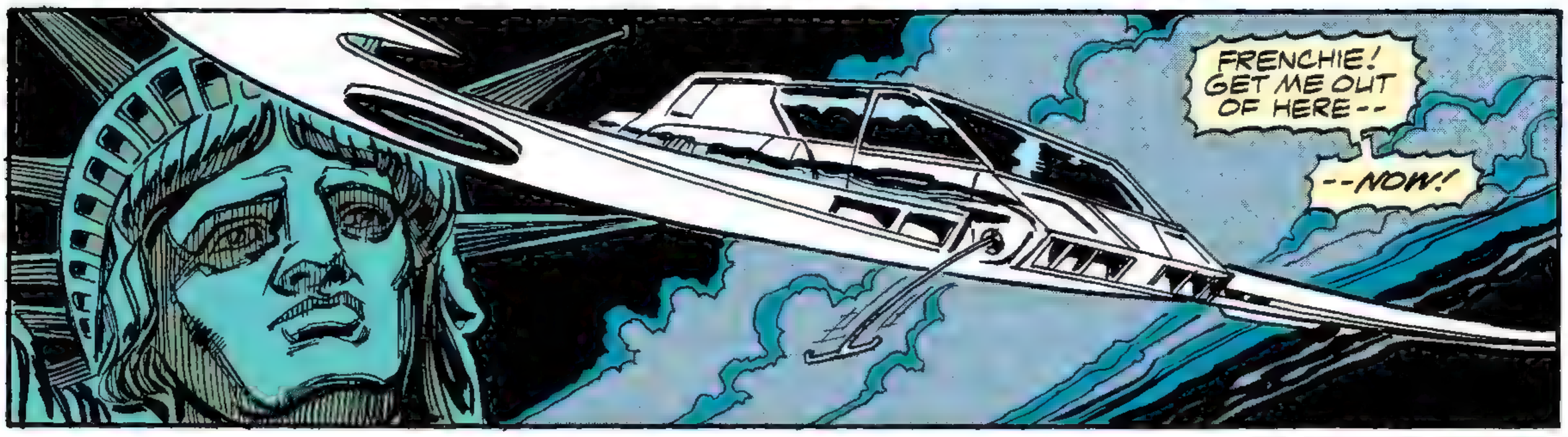
THIS INFORMATION IS EASILY RETRIEVED.

YEAH! YEAH! JUST KEEP THOSE EYES AWAY FROM ME!

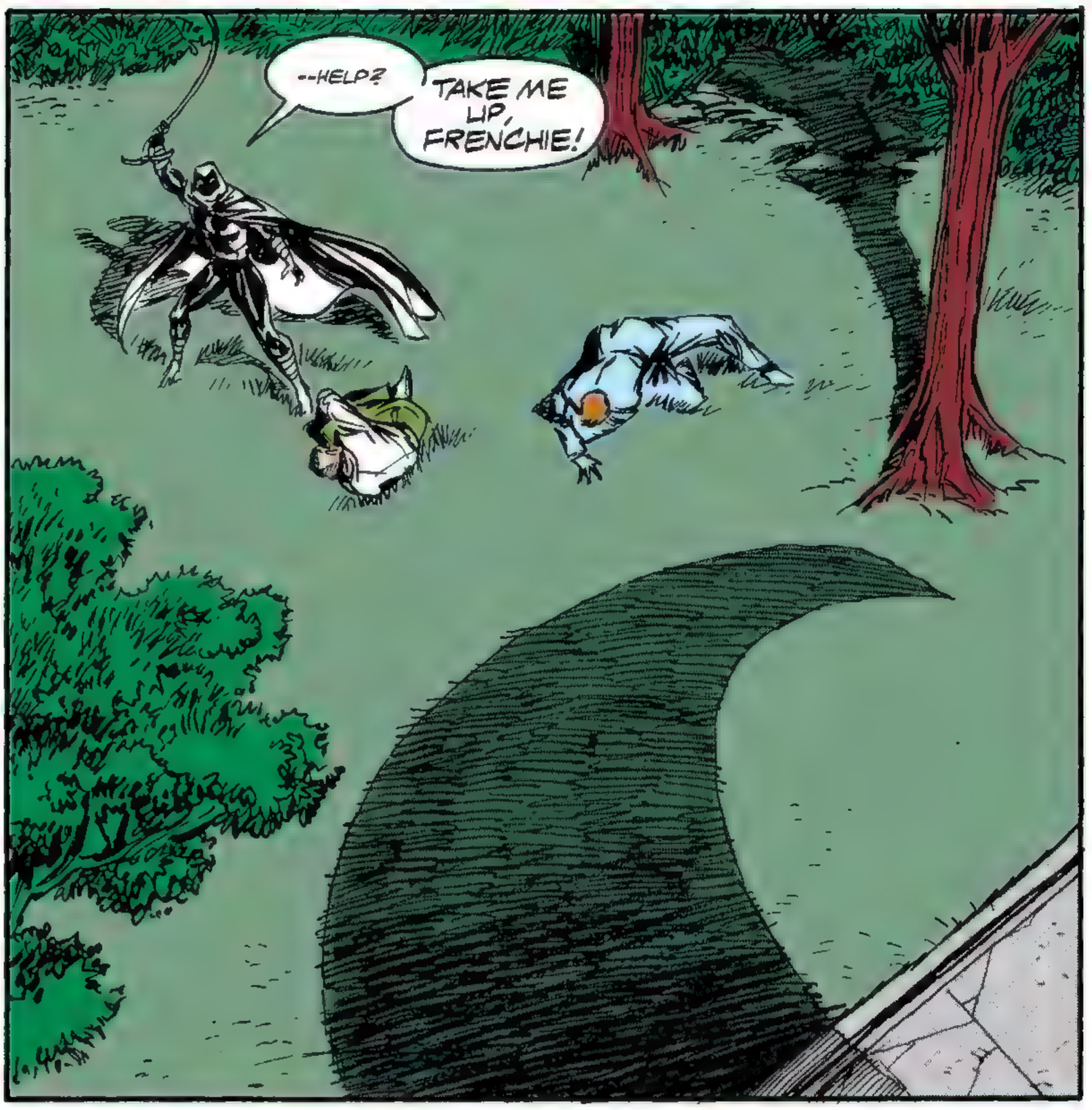
I DON'T KNOW WHO'S BEHIND IT ALL, BUT THERE IS GOING TO BE ANOTHER ATTACK TONIGHT!

G-G-GRAND CENTRAL!

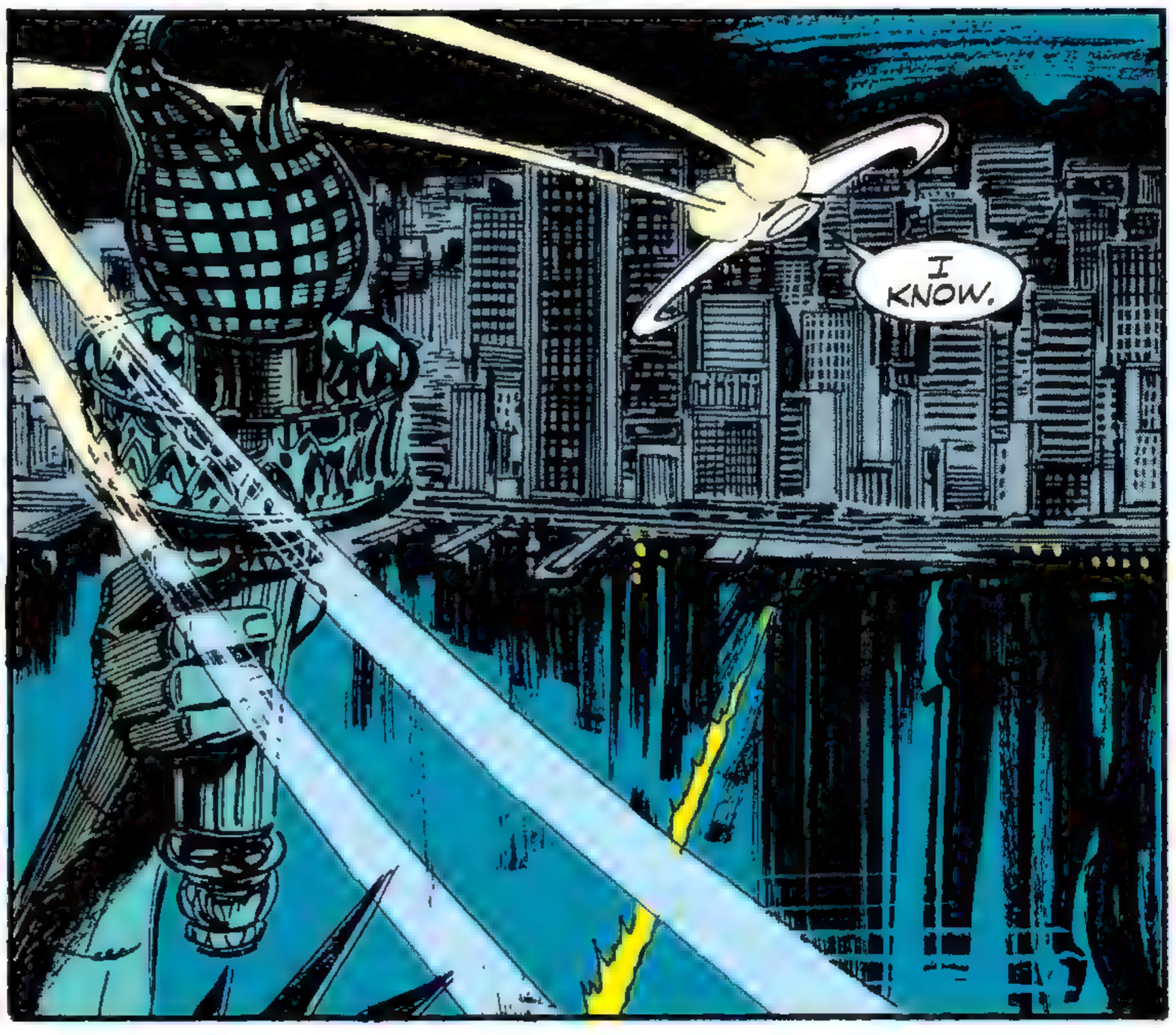
GRAND CENTRAL TERMINAL?


FRENCHIE! GET ME OUT OF HERE--
--NOW!

GHOST RIDER, OR WHATEVER YOUR NAME IS, IF YOU WANT A LIFT WE COULD SURE USE YOUR--


--HELP?
TAKE ME UP, FRENCHIE!

YOU SOUND AGITATED, MARC! WHAT IS WRONG?
THE TERRORIST TOLD US OF ANOTHER ATTACK TONIGHT. IT'S TO TAKE PLACE IN GRAND CENTRAL.
NO! MARLENE IS AT THAT FUND RAISER FOR THE HOMELESS THERE TONIGHT.


I KNOW.

GRAND CENTRAL TERMINAL...

SITTING IN THE CENTER OF MANHATTAN, IT SERVES AS A GATEWAY FOR TENS OF THOUSANDS OF COMMUTERS DAILY.

TONIGHT, PART OF THE TERMINAL HAS BEEN CLOSED DOWN TO HOST A BENEFIT FOR THE PLIGHT OF THE HOMELESS WHO OFTEN USE THE TERMINAL AS SHELTER.

A TRULY NOBLE CAUSE...

...A PITY MY MEN AND I WILL HAVE TO DISRUPT THINGS.

ALL TEAMS ARE IN POSITION, M'AM.

GOOD! FIVE MINUTES UNTIL WE CLOSE THIS PLACE DOWN.

LET'S DO IT BY THE NUMBERS.

THE EXITS ARE COVERED.

WELL, MOST EVERYONE!

ALL IS GOING ACCORDING TO SCHEDULE.

THE WEALTHY ARE ALL ENJOYING THEMSELVES IN THE NAME OF THE DOWNTRODDEN. EVERYONE IS HAVING A GOOD TIME.

THE N.Y.P.D. WILL NOT KNOW WHAT HIT THEM.

EXIT

THIS IS IT. THE MAIN SWITCHING TUNNEL. CLOSE THIS DOWN AND TRAINS WON'T BE ABLE TO ENTER OR LEAVE.

6

SIGNAL ALL UNITS; IT'S TIME.

I'LL CLOSE DOWN THE TUNNEL.

ER... M'AM? IT'S MOVING PRETTY FAST!

DON'T WORRY, LOUIS--

THIS IS WHAT I DO BEST!

FRZZZAT

K-BLOOM

JUST ABOUT NOW OUR PEOPLE AND THE KNIGHTS OF THE MOON SHOULD BE GETTING EVERYONE'S ATTENTION--

--SEALING OFF ALL THE EXITS--

--ELIMINATING ALL SECURITY PEOPLE--

--SHUTTING DOWN THE MAIN POWER ROOM.

MARLENE, WHAT IS HAPPENING?

I DON'T KNOW, MR. PARNELL LET'S JUST STAY CALM AND I'M SURE WE'LL BE FINE!

MY MEN MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF ONE OR TWO OF THE WEALTHY CITIZENS. JUST TO KEEP THE REST IN LINE.

OMIGOD!

BBRAAP

GET AWAY FROM HIM, WOMAN!

HE'S *HURT!* HE NEEDS MEDICAL ATTENTION!

BY THE TIME OUR LEADER IS THROUGH, MANY MORE WILL BE IN THE NEED OF SUCH ATTENTION!

HERE SHE IS NOW!

WELCOME LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! YOU ARE ALL NOW OFFICIALLY THE GUESTS OF--

PLASMA!

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

THAT'S IT MARC! WE ARE TOO LATE!

THE POLICE BANDS SAY THAT GRAND CENTRAL HAS BEEN SEALED OFF BY AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF TERRORISTS AND THAT THERE ARE HOSTAGES INSIDE.

THERE IS NO WAY WE ARE GOING TO BE ABLE TO WALTZ IN THERE, MY FRIEND.

THERE'S A WAY, FRENCHIE!

YOU ARE SURROUNDED! LET'S TALK ABOUT THIS BEFORE ANYONE ELSE GETS HURT.

SILENCE! THE KNIGHTS OF THE MOON WILL INFORM YOU OF THEIR DEMANDS IN THEIR OWN GOOD TIME.

BUT BE ASSURED THAT ANY RESCUE ATTEMPTS WILL RESULT IN--

--DEATH!

VERY GOOD, HASHIM! YOU ARE A TRUE LEADER AMONGST THE KNIGHTS OF THE MOON. THE FOOLS BELOW ARE QUAKING WITH FEAR. YOU HAVE MADE THEM REALIZE THAT KHONSHU IS NOT A GOD TO BE TRIFLED WITH.

I AM HONORED TO ASSIST YOU IN HIS NAME.

TONIGHT WE SHALL GO TO THE ARMS OF KHONSHU AND TAKE THESE AMERICANS WITH US.

ALL WILL LEARN THAT KHONSHU IS THE TRUE RULER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH.

THERE ARE ALMOST AS MANY WAYS TO GET AROUND **BENEATH** THE CITY AS THERE ARE OVERGROUND.

AND A LOT LESS **TRAFFIC** WITH WHICH TO CONTEND.

SOMETIMES I THINK THE RATS ARE MORE PLEASANT THAN THE PEOPLE.

OH WELL, I'VE GOT A WALK AHEAD OF ME. AND I'M OUT OF RADIO CONTACT WITH FRENCHIE. I'M ON MY OWN.

CAN'T SHAKE THE FACT THAT THOSE FANATICS ARE CLAIMING TO SERVE KHONSHU.

I'VE BEEN WEARING THIS COSTUME AND SERVING IN HIS NAME FOR A FEW YEARS NOW.

I BELIEVED I WAS SERVING A HIGHER PURPOSE.

EXACTING VENGEANCE IN HIS NAME FOR THE COMMON GOOD.

BUT WHAT IF I'VE BEEN WRONG?

LOOKS LIKE I'VE REACHED THE MAIN TERMINAL.

COME ON, LET'S FINISH WITH THESE CHARGES AND MOVE TO THE NEXT--

--WE'VE GOT A SCHEDULE TO KEEP.

TO OPEN FOR ME TO SNEAK UP ON THEM--

--HAVE TO JUST JUMP INTO THE FRAY.

IT IS HE! THE FALSE ONE! KILL HIM!

THESE KNIGHTS OF THE MOON SPOUT RELIGIOUS IDEOLOGY TOUGHER THAN THEY FIGHT.

LUCKY ME.

OOF!

BACK IN THE MAIN CONCOURSE, I RECEIVE SOME TROUBLING NEWS.

SEVERAL OF THE KNIGHTS OF KHONSHU AND ONE OF OUR MEN AREN'T REPORTING IN FROM THE UPPER LEVELS. IT COULD BE THE COPS.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

I'LL HANDLE IT.

MAY I HAVE EVERYONE'S ATTENTION PLEASE?

IT APPEARS THAT THE POLICE HAVE DISREGARDED OUR INSTRUCTIONS.

SO! AN EXAMPLE MUST BE MADE. I NEED A VOLUNTEER.

I'M SURE YOU UNDERSTAND.

OH, YES! PLEASE DO NOT ATTEMPT TO ALL BE STOIC, AND NOT VOLUNTEER.

I ASSURE YOU THAT IF ONE OF YOU DOES NOT--

--I WILL CHOOSE FIVE!

YOU HAVE YOUR VOLUNTEER, PLASMA! TAKE ME!

AND WHAT IS YOUR NAME, DEAR?

MARLENE. NOW WHAT? WANT TO EXCHANGE PHONE NUMBERS?

YOU ARE A BRAVE AND WITTY WOMAN, MARLENE.

FAR TOO BRAVE TO DIE--

--YET.

I'LL TAKE THE MAN. HE'S DYING ANYWAY.

I HATE WASTING TIME DOWN HERE WITH THESE CLOWNS. I'VE GOT TO GET TO MARLENE.

THESE KNIGHTS OF KHONSHU MAKE UP IN NUMBER WHAT THEY LACK IN FIGHTING ABILITY.

BUT THAT ISN'T GOING TO BE ENOUGH.

I KNOW THIS GUY. SHARP WE CALLED HIM BACK IN MY MERC DAYS.

NICE FIGHTING TECHNIQUE, BUDDY, BUT DON'T BE STUPID, OKAY?

ALWAYS WAS A GOOD MAN WITH A KNIFE AND ONE THAT YOU COULD TRUST TO WATCH YOUR BACK.

NOW HE'S INVOLVED IN THIS?

GUESS THAT'S WHY I GOT OUT OF THE MERC BUSINESS.

SHOOT THE FALSE ONE! KILL HIM!

DON'T GIVE ME ORDERS, CREEP! I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM IN MY OWN WAY.

YOU USED TO BE SHARPER, SHARP--

--YOU SHOULD HAVE USED THE GUN.

IN THE OLD DAYS YOU WOULDN'T HAVE HESITATED.

IN THE OLD DAYS YOU WOULD HAVE WON THIS BRAWL.

BUT I GUESS THAT'S WHY THEY CALL THEM THE OLD DAYS.

WHERE ARE ALL THESE FANATICS COMING FROM?

THOK

THIS IS THE LAST OF THEM.

NOW, MISTER MERCENARY, I WANT SOME ANSWERS.

I'D LOVE TO HELP, BUDDY, BUT--;COUGH; --I'M FEELING A LITTLE RUN DOWN RIGHT NOW ;COUGH;!

PRETTY IRONIC ME GOING THIS WAY.

WHAT'S THAT OLD SAYING? "HE WHO LIVES BY THE SWORD DIES BY THE--" ;COUGH;

WHAT THE ;COUGH;... I'LL TELL YOU WHAT YOU WANNA KNOW ;COUGH;... THIS ISN'T MY KINDA GIG ANYWAY... FANATIC TERRORISTS... I'VE JUST FALLEN ON HARD TIMES IS ALL ;COUGH;... NEEDED THE WORK... THE MONEY... THAT'S WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT... GET THE ;COUGH;... SHE'S CRAZY... GOT THE WHOLE PLACE RIGGED TO EXPLODE... DOESN'T CARE ABOUT NOTHIN'... MUTIE ;COUGH;...

YOU GOTTA KILL HER... GOT TO--

DEAD.

FOR WHAT? MONEY?

I USED TO DO THE SAME THING FOR MONEY. NOW?

WHY DO I DO THIS?

THE FIST OF KHONSHU?

I COULD BE JUST AS MISGUIDED AS THESE FANATICS.

I'VE GOT TO KNOW.

GRAND CENTRAL STATION

YOU WERE WARNED.

NOW AN EXAMPLE WILL BE MADE. LIVE WITH IT. IT IS ON YOUR HEADS.

INTERESTING CHOICE OF WORDS, HASHIM. NOW STAND BACK AND LET ME DO WHAT I DO BEST.

FFFZZZZT

KRASH

HIS HEAD! IT-IT'S GONE!

THAT SHOULD KEEP THEM BACK FOR A WHILE.

TKASH

PLASMA! IT IS A... A... A--

WHAT, HASHIM? SPEAK.

THE SPILLING OF INNOCENT BLOOD HAS SEALED YOUR FATE.

VENGEANCE WILL BE SERVED.

ALL WILL FEEL THE PAIN.

TCHINK

STOP HIM!

HE IS A DEMON! OUR BULLETS HAVE NO EFFECT ON HIM.

NOR WILL ANYTHING ELSE YOU CHOOSE TO PIT AGAINST ME.

VENGEANCE IS MINE TONIGHT.

NO, DEMON--

--TONIGHT--

--VENGEANCE--

--IS MINE--

FWOOM

NOBODY INTERFERES WITH ONE OF MY MISSIONS!

HE TOOK OUT THE MAJORITY OF OUR MEN.

STILL, IT DOESN'T CHANGE MUCH.

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE. WE'VE PRETTY MUCH ACCOMPLISHED WHAT WE WANTED ANYWAY.

THEY'RE LEAVING US?

MARLENE.

SHE'S CRAZY. SHE'S GOT TO BE STOPPED. SHE--

IT'S OKAY, MARLENE. I'VE GOT IT UNDER CONTROL.

YOU GET EVERYONE OUT OF HERE--

--I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE TERRORISTS. I JUST HAVE TO FIND THE GHOST RIDER AND...

THAT'S ALL THAT'S LEFT OF GHOST RIDER.

I GUESS I'M ON MY OWN AGAIN.

MOON KNIGHT?

"I'LL HAVE TO GO AFTER THOSE TERRORISTS. WHEREVER THEY ARE!"

HASHIM, YOU AND THE REMAINING KNIGHTS OF THE MOON STAY HERE.

FEW KNOW OF THIS DESERTED TRAIN TRACK, BUT IF ANY TRY TO FOLLOW, YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO.

WE EXIST TO SERVE KHONSHU'S GREATER GLORY.

SOON YOU WILL BE IN THE ARMS OF THE GREAT ONE.

FANATICS.

I'M DOING THE WORLD A GREAT SERVICE BY RIDDING IT OF THESE FOOLS.

EXIT

LET'S GET THIS THING MOVING--

--I WANT TO BE WELL CLEAR OF THE MAIN TERMINAL WHEN I *DETONATE* IT.

A TRAIN LEAVING--

--AM I TOO LATE?

DIE IN THE NAME OF KHONSHU, FALSE ONE!

I'M GETTING SICK OF THESE GUYS THROWING KHONSHU'S NAME AROUND.

I HAVE TO KNOW IF WE **ARE** SERVING THE SAME GOD.

I HAVE TO KNOW IF MY LIFE IS A--

--LIE.

NOW WE TALK.

NO. NEVER.

I GO TO THE ARMS OF KHON--

VOOM

NO! I'M TIRED OF THAT TRICK ALREADY.

WHO DO YOU WORK FOR? I KNOW IT CAN'T BE KHONSHU.

DO YOU REALLY, FALSE ONE? DO YOU REALLY KNOW WHO *TRULY* SERVES THE GREAT GOD?

YES!

KWUD

END OF CONVERSATION FOR NOW.

I'VE GOT TO FIGURE OUT A WAY TO CATCH THAT TRAIN BEFORE SHE CAN DETONATE THE EXPLOSIVES.

I COULD USE GHOST RIDER RIGHT ABOUT NOW.

WHAT D'YA THINK THIS PILE OF GLOWIN' STUFF IS?

SARGE, ALL THE HOSTAGES ARE SECURE.

I DON'T KNOW, BUT THE GLOWING IS GETTING BRIGHTER!

GET BACK! IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S GONNA --

FWOOSH
VENGEANCE WILL BE SERVED TONIGHT.

RRRRMBLE

WHAT THE--?

BUT I THOUGHT HE WAS DEAD.

GET ON.

A MAN--OR WHATEVER--OF FEW WORDS. I CAN RESPECT THAT.

AS LONG AS WE GET THE JOB DONE.

THIS BIKE MOVES.

HANS, IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT COMPANY!

I'LL LET THE BOSS LADY KNOW.

PLASMA, WE'RE BEING FOLLOWED--!

THEN WHY ARE YOU UP HERE TALKING TO ME?

ELIMINATE WHOEVER IT IS.

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

HE KNOWS HOW TO MOVE THIS THING--

KRASH

--AND HOW TO MAKE AN ENTRANCE!

I'LL LET HIM HANDLE THE GUYS WITH THE HARDWARE--

--HE SEEMS TO HAVE THE STOMACH FOR IT!

WHAT ARE THOSE IMBECILES DOING?

CAN NO ONE HANDLE A SIMPLE COMMAND? BAD ENOUGH THAT I COULDN'T COUNT ON THE RELIGIOUS FANATICS, BUT MY HAND-PICKED *MERCS*...?

MUST I HANDLE EVERYTHING MYSELF?

GHOST RIDER?

HOW MANY TIMES MUST I KILL YOU--

--FOR YOU TO STAY DEAD?

FWOOM

NOW FOR YOU-- MOON KNIGHT, ISN'T IT?

OR SHOULD I CALL YOU THE FALSE ONE?

I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE LADY, BUT--

WHO AM I, YOU ASK? I'LL TRY TO TELL YOU AS MUCH AS I CAN--

--BEFORE YOU DIE!

KWOOM

YOU'LL FIND I DON'T DIE SO EASILY, PLASMA!

OOPH!

LIKE HITTING GRANITE.

OH, YOU WILL!

YOU DEFINITELY WILL DIE!

FOR I AM THE TRUE INHERITOR OF THE POWER BELONGING TO THE LIVING PHARAOH.*

*SEE MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS ISSUES 28 THROUGH 31 .--DANNY

I'M NO LONGER PUSHED AROUND BY MEN. NOW I AM IN CHARGE.

I HAVE THE POWER TO DO AS I PLEASE.

POWER RECEIVED THROUGH MY FELLOW MUTANT-- HAVOK, OF THE X-MEN. I WAS ABLE TO ABSORB COSMIC ENERGIES DIRECTLY THROUGH HIM.

HE AND THE MEDDLESOME WOLVERINE DEFEATED ME WHEN I SHOULD HAVE BEEN TRIUMPHANT, AND THEY DESTROYED THE CULT OF THE LIVING PHARAOH WHICH I SHOULD HAVE RIGHTFULLY RULED.

BUT FROM THE ASHES OF THAT DEFEAT ROSE A COMMITMENT TO FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MY INFAMOUS UNCLE.

I WILL UNITE ALL THE CULTS OF THE MIDDLE EAST BY SHOWING THEM THAT I AM THE CHOSEN OF ALL THEIR GODS. BEGINNING WITH THE CULT OF KHONSHU, I WILL LAUNCH A JIHAD THE LIKE OF WHICH THE WORLD HAS NEVER SEEN!

SO THEY DON'T REALLY FOLLOW THE WORD OF KHONSHU?

YOU'LL NEVER KNOW! WILL Y--UNH!

YES, I--

--WILL!

YOU ARE A BETTER COMBATANT THAN HAVOK--

--BUT YOUR FISTS WILL HARDLY SERVE YOU AGAINST MY MUTANT POWER.

=UGHPH=

WHAT IS SHE MADE OF?

I COULD HAVE SWORN I SEPARATED A COUPLE OF RIBS WITH THAT ELBOW STRIKE, AND STILL SHE KEEPS COMING--

HOLY--!

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE ALMOST AT THE END OF THE LINE.

THIS IS THE END OF THE LINE, MOON KNIGHT!

TIME TO SEND YOU TO THE ARMS OF KHONSHU!

PLASMA, I'VE BEEN THERE.

AND I'VE GOT TO TELL YOU SOMETHING--

--IT AIN'T ALL IT'S CRACKED UP TO BE!

LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE ALMOST HUMAN AFTER ALL.

NOW I'VE GOT TO GET OUR BUTTS OFF THIS TRAIN BEFORE IT--

I'M FAR *MORE* THAN HUMAN, MOON KNIGHT.

I AM THE RIGHTFUL HEIR TO THE LEGACY OF THE LIVING PHARAOH.

AND YOU WILL GET DOWN ON YOUR HANDS AND KNEES AND GIVE ME HOMAGE BEFORE I KILL YOU.

I DON'T THINK SO.

NEITHER OF US REALLY HAS THE TIME. WE'RE HEADING FOR A *DEAD END!*

JUMP, MOON KNIGHT!

BUT WHAT ABOUT PLASMA?

SHE WILL SERVE AS THE VEHICLE OF HER OWN VENGEANCE.

COWARDS!

I AM SEETHING WITH POWER!

I'LL DESTROY YOU BOTH!

JUMP, PLASMA! BEHIND YOU... A WALL! I SWEAR!

HMMPH! YOU THINK I'D FALL FOR--

THE BOMBS ARE DISARMED.

WE SAVED THE DAY.

TWO CLAIMING TO SERVE GODS, OR SPIRITS, OF VENGEANCE.

I USED TO THINK MY MOTIVES WERE SO CLEAR, BUT AFTER TONIGHT--

--I'M JUST NOT SURE ANYMORE.

WHO ARE YOU, KHONSHU?

AND WHO ARE YOU, GHOST RIDER?

NEXT: J.M. DEMATTEIS, RON GARNEY AND TOM PALMER PRESENT: "SCARLET REDEMPTION" PART I, FEATURING THE LONG-AWAITED RETURN OF STAINED GLASS SCARLET. COVER BY BILL SIENKIEWICZ!

MARVEL® COMICS

GHOST RIDER II

Mayhem

$1.50 US
$2.00 CAN
10
FEB
UK 60p

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

©1990 MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC.

JAVIER SALTARES '90

WHEN INNOCENT BLOOD IS SPILLED, A SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE IS BORN, AND DANNY KETCH FINDS HIMSELF TRANSFORMED. STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

GHOST RIDER

HOWARD MACKIE • WRITER
JAVIER SALTARES • PENCILER
MARK TEXEIRA • INKER
JANICE CHIANG • LETTERER
GREGORY WRIGHT • COLORIST
BOBBIE CHASE • EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO • EDITOR IN CHIEF

ONCE UPON A TIME, THE STREETS OF NEW YORK CITY WERE SAID TO BE PAVED WITH GOLD --

-- BUT MORE AND MORE, AS THIS SCENE IN BROOKLYN ILLUSTRATES, THE GOLDEN AVENUES ARE BEING SPLATTERED WITH BLOOD.

COMPLETE TRESPASSING POLICE LINE NO TRESPASSING LINE NO

SUE TO M

STARS OF BLOOD

I'VE GOT THE MEN CANVASSING THE NEIGHBORHOOD TO SEE IF ANYONE SAW ANYTHING, CAPTAIN DOLAN.

WE'VE I.D.ED THE ADULT AS A HECTOR SORGONE. WE DON'T KNOW THE KID'S NAME YET--PROBABLY HIS SON.

THIS IS THE FOURTH ZODIAC KILLING IN THE PAST TWO MONTHS--

--BUT THIS IS THE FIRST KID.

WHAT A WASTE!

SIR?

NOTHING. LET'S WRAP IT UP--

--FORENSICS IS THROUGH.

IT'S PAPERWORK TIME.

MONTHS AGO, I WAS REBORN IN FIRE AND BLOOD.

I HAVE BEEN CALLED--

--THE GHOST RIDER.

I DO NOT KNOW WHY I DO WHAT I DO.

MY VERY EXISTENCE IS COMPRISED OF QUESTIONS.

WHAT IS IT THAT DRIVES ME TOWARD VENGEANCE?

ANSWERS WILL COME LATER. FOR NOW--

ROOOOM

--I RIDE.

EVEN WITHOUT THE ANSWERS THAT I SEEK, I MUST AVENGE THE BLOOD OF THE INNOCENT.

THIS ZODIAC KILLER MUST PAY.

MILES AWAY, ON QUEENS BOULEVARD...

LEAVE US *ALONE!* WE AIN'T BOTHERIN' YOU KIDS! LEAVE US BE!

YOU AND THE OLD MAN ARE *BUGGIN'* US, OLD LADY!

YEAH! YOU'RE *STINKIN'* UP THE NEIGHBORHOOD!

SO IT'S TIME FOR A LITTLE *WASH--*

--AND *FRY!*

OH, MY!

OH, MY!

HEY! LEAVE THEM ALONE!

JUST BECAUSE THEY DON'T HAVE HOMES DOESN'T MEAN THEY DON'T HAVE RIGHTS!

SHUT UP, YUPPIE!

GET LOST BEFORE WE SQUIRT YOU, TOO!

THIS HERE IS A COMMUNITY SERVICE WE'RE PERFORMIN'!

LET'S LIGHT 'EM UP, BOYS!

tsssssssss

TCHINK

OH, MAN!

NO BLOOD HAS BEEN SPILLED HERE TONIGHT--

--BUT HAD I BEEN LATER?

LEAVE US ALONE. WE WAS JUST FOOLIN' AROUN'!

WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM US?

...?

THE NEXT DAY...

Mr BURGER

THE ZODIAC KILLER GOT A MAN AND HIS SON AT THE CRESCENT STREET STATION LAST NIGHT.

WHAT'S YOUR FATHER GOT TO SAY ABOUT IT, STACY?

HE NEVER DISCUSSES A CASE WHEN HE'S IN THE MIDDLE OF IT, JACK, BUT THIS WHOLE ZODIAC THING IS STRESSING HIM OUT.

THREE OF THE MURDERS HAVE BEEN COMMITTED IN MY DAD'S PRECINCT.

AND HE'S STILL DETERMINED TO BRING IN THE GHOST RIDER.

HUH! THE GHOST RIDER IS PROBABLY THE ONLY HOPE THE POLICE HAVE OF CATCHING THIS ZODIAC KILLER!

AND TONIGHT, FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, I'M GOING OUT CRUISING ON THE BIKE.

IF THE ZODIAC KILLER IS OUT THERE, I'LL STOP HIM!

...I WAS LISTENING TO LINDA WEI ON THE NEWS LAST NIGHT, AND SHE SUGGESTED THAT THE GHOST RIDER IS BEHIND THESE KILLINGS.

YEAH. I HEARD THAT. YOU SEE HER, DAN?

NO!

IF I WANT FICTION, I'LL STICK TO THE FUNNIES! LINDA WEI IS BLAMING GHOST RIDER FOR EVERYTHING BAD THAT HAPPENS IN THIS CITY. SHE'S NO JOURNALIST.

WHOA, BUDDY! YOU DON'T HAVE TO DEFEND THE GHOST RIDER TO ME, REMEMBER?

IT WAS MY BUTT THAT HE SAVED LAST MONTH*.

*SEE MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #63 THROUGH 71.
--BOBBIE

AND I HEAR HE SAVED A COUPLE OF HOMELESS PEOPLE FROM GETTING TORCHED BY A GANG OF KIDS OVER IN FOREST HILLS LAST NIGHT.

SCARED THE PANTS OFF THE KIDS THAT WERE GOING TO DO IT, TOO.

BUT EVEN I'M HAVING A HARD TIME GETTING A HANDLE ON THE GUY.

I MEAN, I DON'T KNOW IF HE REALLY CARES ABOUT THE PEOPLE HE PROTECTS, OR IF HE JUST LIKES BEATING UP ON BAD GUYS.

DOES IT REALLY MATTER?

OF COURSE IT MATTERS, DAN! THAT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?

NOTHING.

YOUR HOROSCOPE

LATER THAT NIGHT...

STACY IS GOING TO BE MAD AT ME FOR BLOWING HER OFF TONIGHT--

--TOO BAD!

WHEN I FIRST FOUND THE MOTORCYCLE, AND UNDERWENT THE TRANSFORMATION, I WAS SCARED AND CONFUSED.

BUT A LOT HAS HAPPENED TO ME SINCE THEN.

I'M NOT SO CONFUSED ANY MORE.

IT'S TIME FOR ME TO TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE WITH THIS THING THAT I'VE BECOME--

--AND IT STARTS WITH THE ZODIAC KILLER!

A TRAILER PARK IN NEW MEXICO...

AND NOW FOR AN UPDATE ON A STORY WE'VE BEEN FOLLOWING FOR THE PAST FEW MONTHS DEALING WITH THE GOINGS ON IN NEW YORK CITY, WE GIVE YOU STEPHANIE SCHEELE.

THANKS, HARRY.

THE NEW YORK CITY POLICE ARE STILL SEARCHING FOR THE MAN CALLING HIMSELF THE GHOST RIDER--

GHOST RIDER

WE'LL KEEP YOU POSTED WHEN IT IS CONFIRMED AS TO WHETHER THE TWO ARE ONE AND THE SAME.

--LOCAL VIEWERS MAY REMEMBER THAT THERE WERE ONCE RUMORS THAT A FLAMING HEADED MOTORCYCLIST BY THE SAME NAME WAS TERRORIZING CRIMINALS IN OUR OWN COMMUNITY.

SORRY, LADY--

--I--

--CAN'T--

--WAIT!

GHOST SEEN LAST NIGHT

BROOKLYN, N.Y.

THUNK

BY LINDA

BACK IN BROOKLYN...

DIDN'T TAKE ME LONG TO COME ACROSS A CRIME SCENE IN *THIS* NEIGHBORHOOD.

THEY'RE CLEANING UP ALREADY!

DON'T LET THE M.E. FORGET THIS, CHARLIE!

WHAT'S THAT?

THE HEAD!

THE HEAD?

OMIGOD! ALL THE BLOOD!

AND ON THE WALL... IT'S HIM AGAIN! IT'S ZODIAK!

HE'S GOT TO BE STOPPED--

--NOW!

WHAT HAPPENED?

WHY DIDN'T I TRANSFORM THIS TIME? ALL THAT BLOOD. IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE-- THE GHOST RIDER IS NEEDED NOW!

MOVE IT, BUDDY! THIS AIN'T NO SHOW!

FIRST IT DOESN'T WORK WHEN I NEED IT TO SAVE MY OWN SKIN, AND NOW THIS... I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING ABOUT THIS BIKE, THE TRANSFORMATION OR THE GHOST RIDER.

IF I CAN'T USE THE TRANSFORMATION WHEN IT'S NEEDED, WHAT GOOD IS IT?

GREAT! THE COPS ARE ONLY A BLOCK AWAY AND THESE KIDS ARE FIGHTING IN A SCHOOL YARD.

THIS NEIGHBORHOOD IS THE PITS!

THE GAS CAP! IT'S *GLOWING!*

FOR *THIS?*

NO! I WON'T DO IT! THIS ISN'T THE KIND OF THING THAT THE GHOST RIDER SHOULD BE USED FOR! PROBABLY JUST SOME KIDS FIGHTING OVER A GIRL!

I WON'T DO IT--!

FWOOSH

YOU MAKE ME LOOK BAD, BOBBY!

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO WON'T BUY ANY STUFF FROM ME--

--AND THEN YOU TELL THE OTHERS THEY SHOULDN'T BE BUYING EITHER.

I GOTTA TEACH YOU A LESSON!

THE LESSON WILL BE YOURS.

TCHINK

KRAK

WHO THE--?

HEY, MAN, YOU DON'T KNOW WHO YOU'RE MESSING WITH!

LET ME GO NOW AND I WON'T BE HURTIN' YOOOOOOOOOOOOO!

H.E.A.R.T. HEADQUARTERS...

RRRING

WOULD YOU PLEASE ANSWER THAT, LUZ?

TYLER MEA

YES.

IF IT'S THE GENTLEMAN WHO CALLED EARLIER INQUIRING ABOUT OUR SERVICES, TELL HIM WE ACCEPT HIS OFFER.

MR. DEATHWATCH, MS. MEAGHER SAYS WE CAN HAVE THE CONTRACT DRAWN UP IMMEDIATELY.

TONIGHT, POLICE UNIT A-35 IS ON EASY STREET. THE TWO OFFICERS INSIDE KNOW THAT THIS PART OF QUEENS RARELY SEES ANY ACTION.

THEY'LL CRUISE OVER TO THE LOCAL DOUGHNUT JOINT, PICK UP SOME COFFEE AND, FOR A CHANGE, NOT WORRY ABOUT GETTING SHOT.

BUMP

WHAT WAS THAT?

SOUNDED LIKE SOMETHING HIT TING THE ROOF! I'LL PULL OVER.

THOSE EYES... THOSE EYES... THEY TORE MY SOUL APART... I TOLD HIM EVERYTHING... EVERYTHING... WHY DIDN'T HE JUST KILL ME?!

WHAT IS THIS JUNKIE BABBLING ABOUT?

FLUSHING MEADOW PARK QUEENS...

THE DRUG DEALER SAID I WOULD FIND THIS ZODIAC KILLER HERE.

MY PENANCE STARE IS A USEFUL TOOL.

BUT FOR WHAT PURPOSE?

AH, HERE HE IS AT LAST.

COMING TOWARD ME LIKE A SHOOTING STAR.

THE STARS NEVER LIE, DON'T YOU KNOW?

THE STARS ARE A USEFUL TOOL.

YOU COULD LEARN MUCH FROM THEM, GHOST RIDER--

--LIKE WHAT TO EXPECT FROM ZODIAK!

WHOOSH

I DO HAVE A SOFT SPOT FOR WEAPONS THAT SATISFY MY PREDISPOSITION TO THE *ASTROLOGICAL HOUSES.*

AQUARIUS, THE WATER BEARER, FOR EXAMPLE. PERHAPS WE CAN *EXTINGUISH* THAT FLAMING HEAD OF YOURS!

TCHNK

WHISHH

YOU *ARE* GOOD---

--BUT I'M *TIRING* OF THIS GAME NOW.

IT'S TIME FOR ME TO PUT AN END TO THIS FIGHT WITH MY ENERGY ARROWS. *SAGITTARIUS*, DON'T YOU KNOW?

INTERESTING. THEY GO RIGHT THROUGH YOU WITHOUT CAUSING ANY DAMAGE.

THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT EVEN THE *STARS* CAN'T SHOW US.

BEST TO CUT MY LOSSES FOR THE DAY--

--AND GLIDE OUT OF HARM'S WAY LIKE A STAR THROUGH THE EVENING SKY!

NO.

YOU WILL NOT ESCAPE MY WRATH SO EASILY.

TCHINK

OOF! YOU ARE PERSISTENT.

WHY HAVE YOU SPILLED INNOCENT BLOOD?

IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO OBTAIN VENGEANCE. I MUST KNOW WHY.

I HAVE TOO MANY QUESTIONS THAT ARE UNANSWERED ALREADY.

INNOCENT?

THOSE SLOBS THAT I KILLED WERE HARDLY INNOCENT! THEY WERE ALL DRUG SMUGGLERS. I WAS ORDERED TO KILL THEM TO ERASE ANY POSSIBILITY OF A TRACE BACK TO OUR MUTUAL EMPLOYERS.

I USED THE ASTROLOGICAL THING AS A COVER. IT SEEMS THAT ASTROLOGY IS ALL THE RAGE WITH SERIAL KILLERS THESE DAYS. THIS WORKS OUT QUITE WELL FOR ME. DON'T YOU SEE? I GET TO PERFORM MY LITTLE ASSASSINATIONS AND THE POLICE WILL CHALK IT UP TO SOME LUNATIC. HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT, YOU MIGHT SAY.

WHAT OF THE YOUNG CHILD YOU SLAUGHTERED?

I WAS AFRAID I'D HIT THE KID.

OH WELL, NO HARM DONE. HIS FATHER WAS A PIG-- A DRUG USER AS WELL AS A DEALER. IN THE ENVIRONMENT THAT HE WAS BEING RAISED, I SINCERELY DOUBT THAT HE WOULD HAVE REMAINED INNOCENT FOR LONG. WHAT *IS* INNOCENCE, ANYWAY? YOU DON'T AGREE? OKAY! DO YOUR WORST.

I WILL.

YOU MUST FEEL THE PAIN.

I'D REALLY *LOVE* TO, BUT I REALLY *CAN'T*.

I'M JUST A MECHANICAL DOPPELGANGER. THE *REAL* ZODIAK IS--

--UP THERE!

I TOLD YOU IT WOULDN'T WORK.

BUT YOU DO HAVE NICE EYES.

ARRRGH!

YOU MUST PAY!

FFFFZZZZT

AND NOW SO WILL YOUR MASTER.

I WAS MONITORING YOUR CONVERSATION WITH MY DOPPELGANGER, GHOST RIDER--

--I REALLY WISH YOU HAD NOT DESTROYED HIM. EVEN THOUGH HE WAS AN ARTIFICIAL CONSTRUCT, I CAN CREATE HIM AND HIS BROTHERS ONLY ONCE A YEAR-- WHEN I'M IN GEMINI.

YOU SAY HE KILLED AN INNOCENT CHILD--ANOTHER REGRETFUL INCIDENT, BUT THESE THINGS HAPPEN. CAN YOU REALLY HOLD A *MACHINE* RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS ACTIONS? THEN AGAIN, MAYBE YOU HOLD *ME* RESPONSIBLE.

YES. AND YOU WILL *PAY!*

UNFORTUNATELY FOR YOU, NOT TONIGHT!

I HAVE OTHER EXECUTIONS TO CARRY OUT AND HAVE NO TIME TO DAWDLE WITH YOU.

I GUESS THE NEXT TIME WE MEET, THE VENGEANCE WILL BE ON THE OTHER FOOT. I'LL HAVE TO REPAY YOU FOR WHAT YOU DID TONIGHT. UNTIL THEN...

THE NEXT DAY...

WHERE DID YOU DISAPPEAR TO LAST NIGHT, BUDDY?

I HAD SOME THINGS I HAD TO TAKE CARE OF.

YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T RISK LOSING A GIRL LIKE STACY, DAN. YOU'RE LUCKY I WAS AROUND TO KEEP THE OTHER GUYS AWAY FROM HER.

AND WHO'S GOING TO PROTECT HER FROM *YOU*?

OOF!

THIS FROM MY BEST FRIEND. I'M HURT.

I HOPE WHATEVER IT WAS YOU WERE TAKING CARE OF WASN'T IN EAST NEW YORK. APPARENTLY GHOST RIDER WAS ON A *MAJOR* RAMPAGE. HE COULD'VE GIVEN YOU HIS PENANCE STARE.

I'M NOT WORRIED.

SINCE WHEN ARE YOU SO BRAVE, BUDDY?

I *AM* FEELING BRAVER LATELY!

IS GHOST RIDER DOING THIS TO ME?

MAMA LUIGI'S PIZZA PALACE

I KNOW SO LITTLE ABOUT WHAT HE IS.

WHY HE DOES WHAT HE DOES...

BUT I AM GOING TO FIND OUT!

SOMEWHERE OUT WEST . . .

I'M COMING FOR YOU, GHOST RIDER!

AND WHEN I FIND YOU--

--YOU'RE DEAD!

NEXT ISSUE: DAN AND GHOST RIDER TAKE A JOURNEY INTO THE REALM OF

NIGHTMARE

MARVEL COMICS

$1.50 US
$2.00 CAN
11
MAR
01317

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

GHOST RIDER

HEX LIES IN INNER ESCAPE!

WHEN INNOCENT BLOOD IS SPILLED, A SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE IS BORN, AND DANNY KETCH FINDS HIMSELF TRANSFORMED. STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

GHOST RIDER

WELCOME TO YOUR NIGHTMARE, DANNY!

WHO ARE YOU? WHERE AM I?

THROUGH A NIGHTMARE REVEALED...

HOWARD MACKIE WRITER • LARRY STROMAN PENCILER • MARK TEXEIRA INKER • JANICE CHIANG LETTERER • GREGORY WRIGHT COLORIST • BOBBIE CHASE EDITOR • TOM DeFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

I AM THE MASTER OF THIS DIMENSION--

--AND, IN TIME, OTHERS AS WELL!

FOR WHILE SOME FROM YOUR DIMENSION HAVE SOUGHT TO STOP ME--

--NIGHTMARE RULES THE DIMENSION OF DREAMS!

NO NEED TO RUN, DEAR BOY. I HAVE LITTLE INTEREST IN YOU AT ALL!

IT IS YOUR DEMONIC COUNTERPART WHOM I SEEK.

WHERE IS THE GHOST RIDER--

--WHERE IS ZARATHOS?

WHO? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

DANNY! OVER HERE, KIDDO!

BARB?

DON'T TELL ME YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE ME, LITTLE BROTHER!

BUT YOU'RE DEAD!

OH! DON'T BE SUCH A STICK IN THE MUD. JUST GIVE ME A HUG!

I'VE MISSED YOU SO *MUCH*, BARB. YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I COULD EVER TALK TO--

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU?

SORRY ABOUT THE *DECEPTION*, DANNY.

--BUT WE DO NEED TO TALK.

AND SINCE I AM IN TOTAL CONTROL HERE, YOU HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO *LISTEN*.

UNLESS YOU REALLY DO NOT WISH TO LEARN THE TRUTH ABOUT THE GHOST RIDER!.

RRRRING

RRRRING

RRRRING

OH! I *DO* HATE WHEN THIS HAPPENS!

RRRRING

RRRRING

RRRRING

RRRRING

WE *WILL* TALK LATER, DANIEL.

WHAT ABOUT GHOST RIDER--?

WE WILL TALK!

HUH?

RRRrrrrrrrring

THE DREAMS ARE GETTING WORSE EVERY NIGHT. MORE REALISTIC.

MORNING, MOM!

DANIEL, WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO SO EARLY ON A SATURDAY?

TODAY'S STACY'S FIRST DAY AT THE POLICE ACADEMY--

--I PROMISED HER THAT I'D DROP HER OFF.

DON'T FORGET I'M WORKING LATE TONIGHT AT THE RESTAURANT, SO YOU'RE ON YOUR *OWN* FOR SUPPER.

I THINK I CAN HANDLE IT, MOM!

SHORTLY...

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D COME TO APPRECIATE THIS MOTORCYCLE OF YOURS, DAN. BUT WITH PARKING IN THE CITY WHAT IT IS...

NO PROBLEM, STACE!

BUT WHAT IS IT WITH THE NEW LEATHER JACKET AND THE GEORGE MICHAEL BEARD?

C'MON, STACE, IT'S THE NEW AND IMPROVED DAN KETCH!

OOOPH! I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE SCRATCHY BEARD!

WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT LATER. NOW YOU GO AND LEARN HOW TO BE A GOOD COP.

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO HIM?

THAT AFTERNOON...

THIS IS THE PLACE.

IF I'M GOING TO GET ANY LEADS ON ZODIAK, IT'LL BE THROUGH SOMEONE HERE. AND I KNOW WHO THAT SOMEONE SHOULD BE.

HEY, KID! YOU KNOW IF STIG IS AROUND TODAY?

YEAH! THE WASTE IS BACK IN THE CORNER, BUT I WOULDN'T GET TOO CLOSE-- HE STINKS!

HMMPH! HE DOESN'T LOOK NEARLY AS TOUGH AS HE DID LAST WEEK.

GUESS THE GHOST RIDER'S PENANCE STARE TOOK HIM DOWN A COUPLE OF NOTCHES.*

YO, STIG!

W-W-WHAT?

I DON'T KNOW YOU... I-I DIDN'T DO NOTHIN'! L-LEAVE ME ALONE.

*THIS HAPPENED LAST ISSUE.-- BOBBIE

I'M NOT GOING TO *HURT* YOU. I JUST WANT TO *TALK*.

I SAID I DON'T *KNOW* NOTHIN'! P-P-PLEASE LEAVE ME *ALONG!*

I HEARD YOU KNEW PLENTY LAST WEEK. YOU TOLD A FRIEND OF MINE WHERE HE COULD FIND ZODIAK.

W-W-WHAT YOU *TALKIN'* ABOUT?

Y-Y-YOU K-K-KNOW T-THE G-G-G-GHOST RIDER?

LEAVE ME ALONE.

DON'T *HURT* ME!

PLEASE.

HEY!

WHAT YOU DOIN' TO MY MAN STIG?

HE USETA BE A BIG MAN IN THE YARD, AND AFTER THE MAN WASTES HIM, I'M GONNA TAKE HIS PLACE. SO *TAKE OFF!*

LISTEN! YOU SEE YOUR MAN STIG-- THE SAME THING CAN HAPPEN TO *YOU*. OR *WORSE!*

WHO'S YOUR SUPPLIER? WHERE DO I FIND HIM?

STIG IS GONE!

WHAT'S *HAPPENING* TO ME?

I DON'T KNOW, MISTER. I'M JUST *TALKIN'*! DON'T HURT ME!

SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDWEST...

THAT YOUR MOTOR-SICKLE OUT FRONT BOY?

MY LITTLE BROTHER IS *TALKING* TO YOU, BOY--

--YOU HAD BEST BE POLITE AND ANSWER HIS QUESTION OR I'M GONNA STICK YOUR HEAD UP YOUR--

C'MON, FLOYD. LLOYD.

I *DON'T* WANT YOU BUSTIN' UP THE *PLACE* AGAIN.

C'MON, CITY BOY, WE'RE GONNA DO OUR BUDDY RUFUS A *FAVOR* AND TAKE THIS OUTSIDE.

CLICK

SHNNG

I'M GOING TO FINISH MY BEER AND THEN LEAVE HERE QUIETLY.

I'M HEADING EAST. I'M IN A HURRY AND I *DON'T* HAVE TIME TO CLEAN YOUR BLOOD OFF MY BOOTS.

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

LATER. BACK IN BROOKLYN...

I CAN'T BELIEVE I LOST MY *TEMPER* LIKE THAT.

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT I'M SITTING HERE IN AN ALLEY AMONG THE *GARBAGE*.

I'M NO HERO.

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT I'M *WAITING* FOR ZODIAK TO SHOW UP.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

THIS LOOKS PROMISING.

THAT HIM BACK THERE?

YUP.

SIR. HE'S HERE.

GOOD, LOUIS--

--LET'S MAKE THIS QUICK.

STIG SENT THIS GHOST RIDER FELLOW IN MY DIRECTION--

--LET'S SEE IF HE CAN DO THE SAME FOR US.

CLEAR OUT THIS YARD. WE DON'T WANT ANY WITNESSES.

THE GAS CAP IS GLOWING. TIME TO CHANGE.

FWOOSH

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

WHERE AM I?

YOU DO ASK THE *SAME* QUESTION OVER AND *OVER* AGAIN, DANIEL!

WELL.

THAT DID TAKE A BIT OF WORK. HAD TO GET YOU AT THE MOMENT OF THE TRANSFORMATION. THE TIME WHEN YOU WERE NEAR THE DIMENSION OF DREAMS.

SPLIT SECOND TIMING AND ALL--

--BUT AS YOU CAN *SEE*, WELL WORTH THE EFFORT.

WELCOME *BACK*, ZARATHOS!

THIS HAS *GOT* TO BE ANOTHER DREAM-- BUT--

BUT *HOW?*

DREAMS ARE WHAT I *WISH* THEM TO BE, MY DEAR BOY. AS I HAVE TOLD YOU, I AM *NIGHTMARE*, MASTER OF THE DREAM DIMENSION. THAT WHICH I DESIRE TO BE REAL IS REAL.

YOUR INSIGNIFICANT MIND WOULD HARDLY BE ABLE TO GRASP THE NATURE OF MY OCCULT MAJESTY. AND YOU ARE OF VERY LITTLE USE TO ME, DANIEL-- I AM ONLY INTERESTED IN HOW YOU CAN HELP ME RELEASE--

--*HIM!*

NOW WE CAN GET TO THE BUSINESS AT HAND.

I AM THE SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE--

YES, YES, I *KNOW* ALL THAT! YOU AND YOUNG DANIEL SEEM TO *SHARE* A TENDENCY TOWARDS REPETITION.

AND YOU *DO* HAVE THE MOST ANNOYING HABIT OF GETTING AMNESIA. I THOUGHT I'D LOST YOU AFTER OUR LAST MEETING.

BUT RECENTLY YOU'VE AGAIN BEGUN TO INHABIT THE NIGHTMARES OF SO MANY PEOPLE AND I-- BUT I'M GETTING *AHEAD* OF MYSELF, AREN'T I?

I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO EXPLAIN YOUR LIFE TO YOU ALL OVER AGAIN.

I'LL TRY AND MAKE IT BRIEF-- ZARATHOS.

IN DAYS PAST YOU WERE WORSHIPED AS A GOD.

A DEVOURER OF SOULS--

--YOUR APPETITE WAS UNQUENCHABLE.

AMONGST DEMONS YOU WERE ALMOST WITHOUT EQUAL.

I DID SAY ALMOST.

YOUR VORACIOUS HUNGER FOR HUMAN SOULS BROUGHT THE ATTENTION AND THE WRATH OF MEPHISTO.

A LEGENDARY BATTLE ENSUED. BUT, ALAS, YOU WERE DEFEATED.

THE LIVING FLAME THAT WAS THE VERY ESSENCE OF YOUR SOUL WAS HIS TO PLAY WITH FOR AGES.

HE AMUSED HIMSELF BY PLACING IT IN A VARIETY OF HUMAN HOSTS.

THEN, ALONG CAME JOHNNY BLAZE.

HE MADE A DEAL WITH MEPHISTO, PRINCE OF THE LIARS, THE FOOLISH MORTAL--

--AND THUS WAS BORN THE GHOST RIDER.

FOR YEARS YOU RODE ON YOUR MOTORCYCLE, CREATED OF THE VERY HELLFIRE YOU USED TO FRY THE SOULS OF THOSE YOU BATTLED.

THE NIGHTMARES YOU CAUSED FOR YOUR VICTIMS BROUGHT YOU TO MY ATTENTION.

YOU KNEW NOTHING OF YOUR PAST. NOTHING OF YOUR FORMER GLORY.

UNTIL I RESTORED YOUR MEMORY AND HELPED YOU TOWARDS YOUR EVENTUAL SEPARATION FROM BLAZE.*

*IN GHOST RIDER VOL.1, #80 AND 82.-- BOBBIE

BUT MY GIFT TO YOU WAS FOR NAUGHT.

YOUR FIERY TEMPER WON OUT AND YOU WERE TRAPPED IN A SOUL CRYSTAL. APPARENTLY DOOMED TO FIGHT YOUR ARCH ENEMY, CENTURIOUS, FOR ALL TIME.

BUT, SOMEHOW, FORTUNE HAS RETURNED YOU TO ME, ZARATHOS.

ONCE AGAIN, YOU CAN BE UNLEASHED UPON THE EARTH TO FRY SOULS AND SEND MORE TO THE WORLD OF NIGHTMARE!

THESE MEMORIES. THEY...THEY--

--MEAN NOTHING TO ME. I HAVE NO IDEA OF THIS WHICH YOU SPEAK.

AND IF YOUR MOTIVES ARE WHAT YOU SAY THEY ARE, THEN YOU MUST PAY THE PRICE FOR YOUR TORTURE OF THE INNOCENT.

WHAT?

I AM THE SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE. I WILL NOT BE A SERVANT TO YOU OR ANYONE ELSE! WHEN INNOCENT BLOOD IS SPILLED--

SILENCE!

FOOL! YOU CANNOT HARM ME IN THIS DIMENSION. HERE I REIGN SUPREME. AS FOR YOUR MISSION-- VENGEANCE I CAN UNDERSTAND, BUT INNOCENT BLOOD?

FOOL.

I OFFERED YOU A PARTNERSHIP FROM WHICH WE COULD BOTH PROSPER.

NOW I OFFER YOU ONLY--

DEATH!

HERE EVEN YOU CAN DIE, GHOST RIDER.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOUR MISSION OF VENGEANCE, THEN?

INNOCENCE YOU SPEAK OF?

I AM PRIVY TO THE COLLECTIVE UNCONSCIOUS OF HUMANITY AND I TELL YOU--

--A TRULY INNOCENT PERSON DOES NOT EXIST!

AND NOW--NEITHER WILL YOU!

HE'S BEING KILLED. I'VE GOT TO HELP HIM.

IT'S AS THOUGH FOR THE FIRST TIME I REALLY KNOW THAT THE FORCE BEHIND GHOST RIDER IS ONE OF GOOD.

EVEN IF NEITHER OF US KNOWS WHERE IT COMES FROM.

THERE IS NOWHERE TO ESCAPE TO -- YOU ARE TOO WEAK, DANIEL! AND YOU, ZARATHOS, OR WHOEVER YOU ARE, DON'T HAVE ANY STRENGTH LEFT.

HE IS RIGHT. ALONE WE CAN DO NOTHING -- NOTHING BUT RUN UNTIL WE ARE CAUGHT.

ALONE, NOTHING -- BUT WHAT ABOUT TOGETHER? SOMEHOW WE -- OR YOU -- SEEMED MUCH STRONGER ~~BEFORE~~, WHEN WE WERE UNITED. I THOUGHT YOU WERE INVINCIBLE. WHY DON'T WE TRY AND MERGE AGAIN... HERE... NOW!

IT WOULD HAVE TO BE A COMPLETE UNION, DANIEL. IF THERE IS ANY DOUBT IN YOUR MIND, HE WILL BE ABLE TO SEPARATE US AGAIN --

--AND YOU ARE RIGHT -- WITHOUT THE UNION, I AM WEAKER!

I AM WHOLE ONCE AGAIN, NIGHTMARE.

AND WHILE YOUR SO-CALLED MEMORIES OF ME DO NOT RING TRUE --

--THERE WAS AN ELEMENT OF TRUTH IN WHAT YOU SAID --

LET'S DO IT.

--I AM MUCH MORE POWERFUL THAN I COULD HAVE IMAGINED.

AND WHILE THE EXTENT OF THESE POWERS IS AS YET UNKNOWN TO ME --

--YOU WILL FEEL A SMALL PART OF THEM NOW!

OH, PLEASE! YOU MUST KNOW THAT YOUR PENANCE STARE CANNOT WORK ON ME!

YES. THIS IS TRUE.

MY VENGEANCE WITH YOU --

--CAN ONLY BE --

--MY ESCAPE!

I STILL DO NOT KNOW ANY MORE ABOUT MYSELF, BUT I FEEL MORE WHOLE AND MORE CERTAIN OF WHAT I MUST DO THAN I EVER HAVE BEFORE.

I AM FREE!

ZODIAK!

NOW YOU WILL FEEL MY PENANCE STARE!

WHAT IS THIS? A MYSTIC BARRIER PREVENTING ME FROM MY GOAL!

IS THIS ANOTHER TRICK OF NIGHTMARE'S?

NO, ZARATHOS, NOT NIGHTMARE! IT IS A SPELL OF CONTAINMENT CONJURED UP BY--

TUMP

DR. STRANGE

SORCERER SUPREME OF EARTH!

NEXT ISSUE: DR. STRANGE, ZODIAK, AND MORE OF THE MYSTERIOUS STRANGER ON THE MOTORCYCLE WHO WANTS TO KILL GHOST RIDER!

MARVEL COMICS

TM

© 1990 MARVEL ENT GROUP INC

$1.50 US
$2.00 CAN
12
APR
UK 60p

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

GHOST RIDER®

FEATURING
DR. STRANGE

WHEN INNOCENT BLOOD IS SPILLED, A SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE IS BORN, AND DANNY KETCH FINDS HIMSELF TRANSFORMED. STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

GHOST RIDER

STRANGE TALES

RELEASE ME, SORCERER.

HOWARD MACKIE
WRITER

JAVIER SALTARES
PENCILER

MARK TEXEIRA
INKER

JAMES PALMIOTTI
BACKGROUND INKS

JANICE CHIANG
LETTERER

GREGORY WRIGHT
COLORIST

BOBBIE CHASE
EDITOR

TOM DeFALCO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

IF YOU ARE THE SORCERER SUPREME YOU CLAIM TO BE--

--WHY DO YOU HOLD ME WHILE THE *ZODIAK KILLER* ESCAPES?

OH, *DOCTOR STRANGE* IS ALL THAT HE CLAIMS TO BE AND *MORE*, DEMON. AND TONIGHT MY MASTER HAS NEED OF YOUR *SERVICE*.

ENOUGH TALK, *RINTRAH*! PLEASE STAND BACK WITH TOPAZ WHILE I DEAL WITH THE *GHOST RIDER*!

YES! YOU ALREADY HAVE THE JOB AS HIS APPRENTICE. NO NEED TO OVERDO IT.

I SERVE NO MAN--

--ONLY VENGEANCE.

YOUR TRUE NATURE IS KNOWN TO ME. YOU SERVE YOUR OWN EVIL CAUSE--

--ZARATHOS!

YOU ARE THE *SECOND* PERSON TO CALL ME BY THAT NAME TONIGHT *--

--AND YOU WILL FARE NO BETTER THAN *NIGHTMARE.*

--UGPH!

BY THE HOARY HOSTS OF HOGGOTH! THE BIKE--HE IS CONTROLLING IT FROM THE--

*LAST ISSUE. --BOBBIE

RRRRRMMMMM

WHY DOES EVERYONE INSIST ON CLAIMING TO KNOW MORE ABOUT ME THAN I DO MYSELF?

I DO NOT SERVE THE CAUSES OF EVIL.

BY THE WARP AND WEFT OF THE WOVEN WORLDS! YOU HAVE HARMED THE MASTER, DEMON!

I DO NOT CHOOSE TO HARM ANY INNOCENT--

--BUT I WILL LET *NOTHING* STOP ME FROM EXACTING VENGEANCE FROM ZODIAK!

BOOK

WHILE I LEARNED LITTLE FROM MY RUN-IN WITH NIGHTMARE--

--I NO LONGER FEEL LOST. I DO HAVE A PURPOSE--

--VENGEANCE.

STEPHEN! HE'S GETTING AWAY!

WE... I... NEED HIM!

STOP!

THERE IS SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT THIS WOMAN.

SOMETHING HIDDEN.

BUT I'VE NO TIME FOR HER NOW. VENGEANCE MUST BE SERVED.

THE GHOST RIDER IS MORE *POWERFUL* THAN I *REMEMBERED*--!

LATELY I'VE FALLEN INTO THE HABIT OF UNDERESTIMATING OUR OPPONENTS. FIRST THE *WEREWOLF BY NIGHT* * AND NOW *ZARATHOS*.

AND YOU, *RINTRAH*, MUST LEARN TO CONTROL YOUR TEMPER. YOU SHOULD HAVE TRIED TO *REASON* WITH HIM, EXPLAIN THAT WHICH WE SEEK.

YES, *MASTER*. IT WAS JUST SEEING YOU ATTACKED SET MY BLOOD *AFIRE* AND--

WHAT'S DONE IS DONE--

*SEE DOCTOR STRANGE #26 & 27. --BOBBIE

NOW WE MUST FIND THE DEMON ZARATHOS AGAIN, IF WE ARE TO HELP *TOPAZ* WITH HER *QUEST*.

THE *HELLFIRE* FROM ZARATHOS COMBINED WITH THE *TALON* OF VAMPIRE BAT AND THE *FUR* FROM A WEREWOLF IS ALL THAT SHE REQUIRES TO FREE HER FROM THE SPIRIT RESIDING WITHIN HER BODY.

A SIMPLE SPELL OF *LEVITATION*--

--WILL ALLOW US TO CONTINUE OUR SEARCH FOR THE *GHOST RIDER* FROM AN *ADVANTAGEOUS* POSITION.

THOUGH HE SEEMS TO BE LEAVING A *CLEAR ENOUGH* TRAIL FOR US TO FOLLOW!

HOBOKEN...

I'VE COME A LONG WAY, GHOST RIDER--

--TONIGHT YOU'RE MINE!

HEY, MAN, YOU A TOURIST?

FOR TWENTY BUCKS ME AND CHARLIE CAN SHOW YOU THE SIGHTS.

BACK OFF.

NO, MAN, HOW ABOUT I BLOW THE BACK OF YOUR HEAD OFF?

KLIK

NOW, TAKE OFF THE PRETTY COAT, AND GIVE ME THE KEYS TO THE BIKE AND MAYBE I WON'T--

--PUUUUFF!

I'M GONNA CUT YOU--

REALLY?

DOWN ON YOUR KNEES, BOY!

LOOK AT YOUR FRIEND--

EVEN ROLLING IN HIS OWN VOMIT--

--HE COULD BE THE LUCKY ONE.

KLIK

KA-ROOM

STAY LUCKY, KID!

ELSEWHERE...

WHY DO I ALWAYS HAVE TO SIT IN THE CAR?

SINCE WHEN DID I BECOME THIS ZODIAK CHARACTER'S PERSONAL CHAUFFEUR?

I'M TWICE THE *HIT MAN* HE IS--

202051

--OR I COULD BE IF EVERYBODY WASN'T SO IMPRESSED BY A *COSTUME* THESE DAYS.

WHAT THE--?

WARNING: OBJECTS IN MIRROR ARE CLOSER THAN THEY APPEAR

NOT BY *MYSELF*--

--I'M *JUST* A DRIVER.

YO, *PATRICK!* YOU *THERE?*

WE'VE GOT *TROUBLE* COMING HERE QUICK.

STAY WITH THE CAR! ZODIAK'LL HAVE YOUR BUTT IF YOU LEAVE YOUR POST.

I AIN'T STAYING *NOWHERE.* THAT THING IS--

PARKIN
GARAG
RESIDE
ONLY

TCHNK

OH, !&%#$!

HELLLLLP!

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

THIS AREA IS SUPPOSED TO BE SECURED FOR FOUR SQUARE BLOCKS.

NOTHING COMES IN OR OUT WITHOUT US KNOWING ABOUT--

--IT.

ZODIAK'S TRAIL LEAD HERE.

NOTHING WILL STAND IN MY WAY TONIGHT.

ZODIAK MUST BE MADE TO PAY FOR ALL OF THE INNOCENT BLOOD THAT HE HAS SPILLED.

HIS PUNISHMENT MUST BE SWIFT AND--

--SEVERE...

CHILDREN.

WRAPPED IN AN ENERGY OF MYSTICAL ORIGIN.

THE PAIN.

THEY ARE BEING TORN APART BY THOSE GENERATING THIS FORCE.

THIS WILL STOP.

AHEM!
OH, GHOST RIDER--
--I BELIEVE YOU WERE LOOKING FOR ME!
YOU SEEM TO HAVE LATCHED ON TO ME WITH THIS *VENGEANCE* THING OF YOURS. IT REALLY COULD BECOME QUITE *ANNOYING* IF IT WERE TO CONTINUE.
FORTUNATELY, I PLAN ON ENDING IT RIGHT HERE AND NOW.
MY EMPLOYERS WOULD BE VERY UPSET WITH ME IF I ALLOWED YOU TO INTERFERE WITH THIS *CROSSING OVER.*
THWK
OH, YES! YOUR MIGHTY CHAIN!

I DON'T THINK IT'S GOING TO DO YOU MUCH GOOD THIS TIME!

GENTLEMEN.

FRZZAT

TRAPPED AGAIN BY SOME MYSTICAL ENERGIES.

HMMPH!

I'D'VE THOUGHT THESE THINGS WOULD'VE FRIED YOU BY NOW.

THEY CAME FROM THE *OTHER SIDE*, PARTIAL PAYMENT FROM SOME SATISFIED CUSTOMERS OF MY EMPLOYERS.

SUPPOSEDLY, THEY'RE POWERED BY SOME SORT OF *MAGIC*.

TURN UP THE JUICE, GENTLEMEN.

LET'S SEE IF WE CAN MAKE HIM BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF *MAGIC*.

FFZZZZ

PFFT

HEY, WHAT HAPPENED?

I HAPPENED!

AND IT APPEARS THAT IT IS FORTUNATE FOR THIS GHOST RIDER THAT WE DID FOLLOW HIM.

PERHAPS IF WE ASSIST HIM HE WILL *RECIPROCATE* IN KIND.

IT IS WORTH A TRY, MASTER.

GHOST RIDER. YOU NEED HELP.

NO.

ZODIAK MUST PAY.

TOO LATE!

I REALLY HAVE TO TAKE OFF. THIS ISN'T THE ONLY OF MY EMPLOYERS' TRANSFER STATIONS THAT I'VE GOT TO LOOK AFTER.

THEY'VE GOT STATIONS LIKE THIS ONE IN SEVERAL PLACES AROUND THE COUNTRY... AND THEY'RE TURNING OUT TO BE QUITE PROFITABLE.

MY EMPLOYERS LOVE TURNING A PROFIT--ANY WAY THEY CAN. THEY PAY ME -- WELL YOU MIGHT SAY THAT THEY ***CREATED ME*** TO MAKE SURE PEOPLE LIKE YOU DON'T INTERFERE WITH THEIR BUSINESS.

WHOOPS! LOOKS LIKE YOU DISTURBED THE SEVEN'S CONCENTRATION.

NO TELLING WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN!

FFZZ-FWOOOM

MASTER, WHAT MANNER OF DEMONS ARE THESE?

NONE THAT I RECOGNIZE, RINTRAH.

YOU ARE KNOWN TO US, STEPHEN STRANGE!

KNOWN WELL ENOUGH THAT WE KNOW--

--YOU MUST DIE!

STEPHEN!

BEHIND ME, TOPAZ. I CAN SHIELD US TEMPORARILY UNTIL WE KNOW THE SOURCE OF THEIR ENCHANTMENTS.

THERE IS NO TIME TO WAIT.

THE CHILDREN ARE STILL IN DANGER.

GHOST RIDER IS RIGHT.

THE CHILDREN MUST BE PROTECTED AT ANY COSTS.

AWAY FROM THE CHILDREN, MONSTERS.

THE GHOST RIDER APPEARS TO BE A NOBLE BEING. HE IS AS INTERESTED IN PROTECTING THE CHILDREN AS WE ARE--

--NOT AT ALL WHAT I WOULD HAVE EXPECTED FROM ZARATHOS.

ME NEITHER, RINTRAH--

--THERE SEEMS TO BE SOMETHING VERY COMPLEX ABOUT *THIS* GHOST RIDER.

BUT BEFORE WE CAN EXPLORE HIS TRUE NATURE FURTHER--

--WE MUST DRIVE THESE DEMONS BACK TO WHEREVER THEY HAVE COME.

AND, BY THE FLAMES OF THE FALTINE--

--AND THE POWER OF THE VISHANTI--

--THIS WILL BE DONE.

I HAVE PUSHED THE DEMONS BACK INTO THE DIMENSIONAL PORTAL THROUGH WHICH THEY CAME TO EARTH--

--BUT UNLESS THIS MACHINERY IS DESTROYED...

YES.

TCHHHK

IT IS TAINTED WITH THE BLOOD OF THE INNOCENT.

IT WILL EXIST NO MORE.

MASTER, THESE YOUNG ONES WILL NEED MEDICAL ATTENTION.

YES, RINTRAH, I WILL ATTEND TO THEM.

GHOST RIDER, I'M SORRY THAT ZODIAK AND HIS *SEVEN* ESCAPED IN THE MELEE, BUT--

QUIET.

TCHHNK

ALL IS NOT YET LOST.

ZODIAK!

BEFORE YOU FEEL MY PENANCE STARE, I WILL KNOW WHO YOU WORK FOR AND THE MEANING OF THIS PLACE.

IT'S JUST A WAY STATION. STRICTLY BUSINESS. MY EMPLOYERS HAVE THEM ALL OVER THE PLACE.

OH, BY THE WAY, I'M *ANOTHER* DOPPELGANGER! SORRY! BUT YOU *ARE* GETTING CLOSER! I WOULDN'T SUGGEST YOU GET TOO CLOSE THOUGH--IT'S VERY UNLIKELY THAT YOU'D SURVIVE ANOTHER ENCOUNTER. END OF CONVERSATION.

YES.

FWOMP

GHOST RIDER?

SPEAK!

I HAVE NEED OF YOUR ASSISTANCE.

THE INNOCENT LIFE OF MY FRIEND IS AT STAKE.

CONTINUE.

THIS TALE WILL BE CONCLUDED IN DOCTOR STRANGE #28...!

NEXT MONTH:

NEW REGULAR ARTIST MARK TEXEIRA, NEW VILLAIN

SNOWBLIND

AND

JOHNNY BLAZE

ARRIVE IN MANHATTAN!

MARVEL COMICS

DR. STRANGE

SORCERER SUPREME

$1.50 US
$2.00 CAN
28
APR
UK 60p

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE
AUTHORITY

STRANGE TALES* PART II

*CONTINUED FROM GHOST RIDER #12, NOW ON SALE.

COME, SORCERER! CAST ANY SPELL YOUR MAGIC-LADEN MIND CAN CONCEIVE!

THE GHOST RIDER WILL SURVIVE THEM ALL!

YES--OR PERISH IN THE PROCESS!

ROY & DANN THOMAS
WRITERS

CHRIS MARRINAN
PENCILER

MARK McKENNA
INKER

PAT BROSSEAU
LETTERER

GEORGE ROUSSOS
COLORIST

RALPH MACCHIO
EDITOR

TOM DeFALCO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

WHY ARE THOSE TWO MEN *FIGHTING*, TOPAZ?

THEY *AREN'T*, DEAR.

THE ONE WITH THE CAPE IS TRYING TO TAKE A BIT OF THE *FIRE* FROM THE OTHER ONE'S HEAD...

...AND THE MAN WITH THE SKULL-MASK IS TRYING TO *LET* HIM!

*FROM THEIR INCANDESCENT LAND, MAY THE **FALTINE** REACH THEIR HAND...*

...STRETCH IT WIDE ACROSS THE ABYSS

WHICH DOES BURN AND FLARE AND HISS...

*LET THEIR **FLAMING FINGERS** NOW--*

*--PLUCK THE **BLAZE** FROM **DEMON'S** BR--*

ARRRR

TOO--GREAT--!

THEN--*SPELL, BE NO MORE!*

THE--*PAIN--*

SORRY, RIDER. I HAD NO IDEA MY INCANTATION WOULD CAUSE YOU PAIN.

I DID NOT KNOW I *COULD* FEEL SUCH AGONY.

IT CAME UPON ME--SO *SUDDEN-LY--*

--THE MOMENT STEPHEN RE-FERRED TO YOU AS A *DEMON!*

WHAT *IS* IT?

WHAT'S WRONG?

SO YOU'RE DEFINITELY *NOT* A DEMON -- LET ALONE *ZARATHOS*, LIKE THE *FIRST* GHOST RIDER WAS.

I HAD ALREADY TOLD YOU THAT, WOMAN.

WELL, YOU MUST REALIZE THAT MY MASTER COULD NOT TAKE YOUR *WORD* FOR THAT, WITHOUT--

ENOUGH, RINTRAH.

TOPAZ, DO YOU THINK YOUR *EMPATH'S TOUCH* CAN EASE HIS LINGERING PAIN, BEFORE WE MOVE ON?

THIS IS ALL *MY* FAULT, GHOST RIDER.

DR. STRANGE IS TRYING TO RID ME OF A *DEMON* THAT'S POSSESSING ME.

THE SPELL TO FREE ME REQUIRES, AMONG OTHER THINGS, *FIRE* FROM A *DEMON*, SO--

I... UNDERSTAND.

BUT--I *DON'T!*

I'M GETTING -- SOME SORT OF *PSYCHIC FEEDBACK*--

SO-- *STRONG!* IT--

AAAAAA

WHAT--?

IS--IS MISS TOPAZ *HURT*, RINTRAH--LIKE THOSE PEOPLE WERE HURTING *US* IN THAT *MACHINE*, BEFORE YOU CAME?*

I DO NOT THINK HE IS *BADLY* HURT, YOUNG MISS--ONLY SHAKEN.

MASTER, DO YOU SUPPOSE THIS OCCURRENCE IS RELATED TO THE *ENTITY* THAT HAS POSSESSED HER?

I CAN PRACTICALLY *GUARANTEE* IT, RINTRAH.

THEN WHY DID YOU ALLOW HER TO BE *ENDANGERED* BY--

BECAUSE, YOU FOOL--

* THE NOW-DISINTEGRATED *COVEN*, IN G.R. #12. --RALF-RIDER

--THE MAGE WISHED TO LURE ME FORTH INTO THE OPEN--

--FROM THE DEEP, HIDDEN RECESS OF HER SOUL!

I--

--ULLIKUMMIS!

ULLIKUMMIS--SON OF KUMARBI, SON OF ANU--AND TIMELESS FOE OF TESHUB OF THE STORM!

I WILL SAY NO MORRRRR*

HITTITE-SPAWNED FIEND!

YOU WILL NOT SHED INNOCENT BLOOD THIS NIGHT!

BE WARNED, MAGE--AND SKULL-FACED ONE--THE SOUL OF THE EMPATH TOPAZ IS MINE!

DEFEND HER--OR PURSUE ME--AT HER PERIL, AND AT YOUR OWN!

MAY THE RINGS OF RAGGADOOR RESTRAIN YOU--AND GIVE YOU PAUSE TO THINK!

YOU WOULD STAY MY AVENGING HAND?!

BEWARE, STEPHEN STRANGE!

I JUST MEAN THERE'S NOTHING HERE WORTH AVENGING--YET.

AND YOU COULDN'T POSSIBLY GET AT THE DEMON INSIDE HER, WITHOUT SHEDDING TOPAZ'S BLOOD--

--WHICH, NEED I SAY, IS MORE INNOCENT THAN MOST.

IT IS NOT MY AIM TO HARM THE BLAMELESS.

I SHALL DEFER TO YOUR JUDGMENT--FOR THE PRESENT.

WHILE YOU TWO--ARE BEING OH-SO-CIVILIZED--

--COULD ONE OF YOU GET ME AN ASPIRIN?

RINTRAH WILL SEE YOU TO MY MANSION, TOPAZ...ONCE THESE POOR KIDS ARE TAKEN TO THE NEAREST POLICE STATION.

IF YOU PLAN TO SEEK OUT THE *DEMONS* FROM WHOM WE RESCUED THESE CHILDREN, MASTER, I SHOULD LIKE TO--

I'VE SEEN TO IT THAT THEIR EXPERIENCES TONIGHT WILL QUICKLY FADE.

...ALONG WITH ALL MEMORY OF SEEING ME CASTING ANY SPELLS.

THAT PURSUIT IS FOR *DR. STRANGE* AND MYSELF ALONE, MINOTAUR.

AFRAID THIS ONE'S *HIS* CALL, APPRENTICE.

IF THAT IS HOW *YOU* WANT IT, MASTER, I SHALL RELUCTANTLY AGREE.

I SHALL WEAVE A SPELL TO MAKE MISS TOPAZ AND MYSELF LESS CONSPICUOUS AS WE WEND OUR WAY HOMEWARD.

UH...I REALLY DON'T THINK...

RINTRAH...WALKING AROUND AS DEAD-RINGERS FOR LAUREL AND HARDY ISN'T EXACTLY THE BEST WAY TO AVOID ATTRACTING ATTENTION.

MAY I SUGGEST--SOMEONE WHOSE LIKENESS YOU *DIDN'T* LIFT FROM THE "ALL-*NIGHT MOVIE*"?

MY IMAGE-WEAVING SKILLS IMPROVE APACE, BUT I STILL WORK BEST FROM VISUAL INSPIRATION.

THIS PAIR, AS YOU MAY RECALL, APPEARED BRIEFLY IN THE BACKGROUND OF A SCENE IN "*ON THE WATERFRONT*," RIGHT AFTER MARLON BRANDO--

RINTRAH...

MAY THE GODS PRESERVE YOU, MASTER.

IS ONE SO LIMITED TRULY YOUR APPRENTICE, WIZARD?

RINTRAH'S PROVED HIS COURAGE ON MORE WORLDS THAN EVEN YOU CAN HAVE SEEN, GHOST RIDER.

NOW, WITH THE *EYE OF AGAMOTTO* TO LEAD OUR WAY--

--LET'S GO GET THOSE DEMONIC SCUM WHO DARE TO PREY ON CHILDREN!

NOW YOU, EVEN MORE THAN I, SOUND LIKE THE *SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE!*

AH! YOU HAVE PICKED UP THEIR TRACKS ALREADY!

BY THE THREE WHO ARE THE VISHANTI!

THE COSMIC SLIME-TRAIL LEADS STRAIGHT UP INTO THE *SKY*-- THEN *VANISHES.*

WELL, WHERE IT LEADS--*WE FOLLOW!*

IF YOU'D LIKE, MY CLOAK OF LEVITATION CAN--

THERE ARE *SOME* THINGS, STRANGE--

--I CAN DO FOR MYSELF!

SO I SEE.

THEN I'LL CONCENTRATE ON ENLARGING THAT DIMENSIONAL PINPOINT...

I BESEECH THEE, O OSHTUR--

LET THE SKIES QUAKE WITH SPASM--

AND THE APERTURE GAPING

BECOME A WIDE CHASM!

YOUR INCANTATION WORKED!

BUT--THAT YAWNING, GREAT-FANGED *MOUTH* THE HOLE HAS BECOME--

--WAS *NOT* MY IDEA.

AND I DON'T MIND TELLING YOU, RIDER--

--IT'S NOT ONE I CARE FOR...

WELL, COME NOW, CHILDREN...

...EXCITEMENT'S *OVER* FOR TONIGHT!

WELL, NOW! SO *THIS* IS WHERE WE WIND UP, ONCE WE'VE PASSED THROUGH THE EYE OF THE NEEDLE!

NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE THIS PLACE AGAIN-- NOT THAT I *WANTED* TO!

THIS SULFUROUS NETHERWORLD IS KNOWN TO YOU?

YOU MIGHT SAY THAT.

THIS IS THE REALM OF THE *DYKKORS*-- FABLED AS THE MOST GROTESQUE *DEMONS* IN ALL THE COSMOS!

THEY WERE EXILED TO IT CENTURIES AGO BY MY LATE MENTOR, THE *ANCIENT ONE*.

THE DREAD *DORMAMMU* ONCE TOOK IT OVER, BRIEFLY, AFTER HE'D BEEN HURLED HERE BY THE ENTITY CALLED *ETERNITY*. *

* IN THE CLASSIC *DR. STRANGE* #172-173 (FIRST SERIES).-- RALF

BUT, THAT'S ENOUGH NAME-DROPPING.

WE'VE GOT TO FIND THOSE DEVILS, AND LEARN THEIR CONNECTION WITH THAT SERIAL-KILLER, *ZODIAK*.

ON THE CONTARY, DR. STRANGE--

BY THE HOARY HORDES OF HOGGOTH--

--*THEY* HAVE FOUND *US*, TO THEIR SORROW!

DYKKORS!

LOOK WHO HAS RETURNED, FELLOW FIENDS!

OUR OLD ENEMY'S DISCIPLE-- COME TO GIVE US A *SECOND CHANCE* AT HIM!

WATCH OUT!

THEIR TALONS ARE RAZOR-SHARP!

THEN MY CHAIN WILL BLUNT THEM!

YOU DENY BEING *JOHNNY BLAZE*--AND YOU CERTAINLY DON'T TALK LIKE HIM.

WHO *ARE* YOU REALLY, FRIEND?

I AM NO MAN'S TRUE FRIEND, MAGE-- NOT EVEN YOURS.

I AM *GHOST RIDER*-- THE *SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE*--

--AND UPON THESE VERMIN, WHO HAVE SHED INNOCENT BLOOD, SHALL I LAY MY AVENGING HAND!

I TRY FOR SIMILAR RESULTS, RIDER-- IN THE CAUSE OF *COSMIC ORDER*, NOT BLOOD REVENGE.

MY *BOLTS OF BEDEVILMENT* ARE FELLING SOME-- BUT THEY KEEP COMING!

A FEW YEARS AGO, THERE WERE ONLY A HANDFUL OF THEM LEFT--

--BUT NOW THEY'RE COMING AT US FROM ALL SIDES!

BY THE POWER OF THE TRIPLE VISHANTI--

--LET THY--

MMMFF--!

TOO MANY--EVEN FOR THE SPIRIT OF JUSTICE ENRAGED--!

HOLD, DYKKORS--

NOT SO HAUGHTY, HEY, WITHOUT ALL YOUR HIGH-CLASS PATRONS TO CALL ON?

--I THINK OUR UNINVITED GUESTS ARE HELPLESS ENOUGH FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES.

SHALL WE SLICE THEIR JUGULARS, O YAYAUHCO?

YES!

YES!

NO!

BETTER BY FAR IF WE TEAR FROM THEM, FIRST, THE SECRETS OF THEIR WORLD, WHICH WE ONLY LATELY VISITED--

--AND THEN FLAY THE TENDER FLESH FROM THEIR BLEACHED-WHITE BONES!

WAIT!

YOU SAID-- YOU WERE ON EARTH RECENTLY.

YOU *DIDN'T* MEAN ONLY WHEN SUMMONED BY *ZODIAK* TONIGHT, DID YOU?

HARDLY.

WHEN DORMAMMU LED US, YOU HALTED US AT THE VERY DOORWAY TO YOUR WORLD.

IT WAS LEFT FOR *N'ASTIRH* AND THE *GOBLIN QUEEN* TO GAIN US ENTRANCE TO THE EARTH-SPHERE...

"...WHERE WE GAINED A FOOT-HOLD-- AND WOULD HAVE *HELD* IT, TOO--

"--IF NOT FOR VARIOUS GROUPS OF YOUTHFUL HUMAN MUTANTS WHICH CALLED THEMSELVES *X-THIS* AND *X-THAT!** "

*SEE THE VARIOUS *"INFERNO"* ISSUES OF *X-MEN* AND *X-FACTOR*. --X-RALF

THOSE INVADING DEMONS I HEARD OF WHEN I RETURNED FROM *WALES*-- WERE *YOU?!*

YES. WE ADMIT IT-- WE BECAME *ADDICTED* TO THE *BLOOD* SHED ON EARTH.

WE WANT-- WE *MUST* HAVE IT NOW-- FOR OUR VERY *SURVIVAL!*

AND THAT IS WHERE *ZODIAK* CAME IN!

THEN, YOU DECIDED TO SERVE HIM--

--BECAUSE HE WAS WILLING TO KILL HUMAN BEINGS FOR YOU?

DID YOU *HEAR* THAT, FELLOW DYKKORS?

THESE FOOLS THINK WE *SERVE* ZODIAK!

HAHAHAHA

MY DEAR MAGE AND MOTORCYCLIST-- IT IS *ZODIAK* WHO SERVES *US!*

AND WHY NOT? AFTER ALL--

--ISN'T *THAT WHAT WE CREATED HIM TO DO?!*

YUAK HARR HARR HEE HEE

KROAK

DO YOU *HAVE* TO LEAVE US AT THE POLICE STATION, MISS TOPAZ--MR. WINTERS?

NOT "*WINTERS*" LAD. MY NAME IS--

--WINTERS, JUST LIKE THE BOY SAID. ISN'T IT?

UH... YES. OF COURSE.

AND DON'T BE AFRAID. THE POLICE WILL SEE TO IT THAT YOU GET BACK TO YOUR PARENTS.

BUT--THAT ZODIAK MAN *KILLED* MY FOLKS--WHEN HE TOOK ME AWAY.

NEW YORK

PRECINCT

I--I'M SORRY, TINA. I DIDN'T KNOW THAT.

I DID!

I PROMISE YOU, MR. WINTERS AND I WILL DO EVERY-THING WE CAN TO *CAPTURE* ZODIAK--

--AND WE'LL COME BACK LATER, TO MAKE CERTAIN THE POLICE ARE DOING EVERYTHING THEY SHOULD

BUT NOW, WE--WE'D BETTER GO INSIDE...

HEY, *YOU!*

WHAT'RE YOU DOING SKULKING AROUND UP HERE IN THAT DUMB OUTFIT?

WHY, WAITING FOR *YOU*, OFFICER...

I'M *SO* GLAD YOU FINALLY ARRIVED!

SSLASSH

NEW YORK POLICE

URGGGK--!

HOW ELSE WAS I GOING TO TEST MY NEW *LION CLAW?*

AN ATTRIBUTE OF MY *LEO* PHASE, DON'T YOU KNOW.

BESIDES, I REALLY SHOULD THANK YOU JUST FOR HELPING ME PASS THE TIME...

...UNTIL MY *CURRENT QUARRY* EMERGED FROM THE RELATIVE SAFETY OF THE POLICE STATION...!

MAY WE GO HOME NOW, MISS TOPAZ?

I DO NOT FEEL SO VERY GOOD.

YOU ARE GOING TO FEEL *WORSE*, MAN BULL

MUCH WORSE!

YOU *DYKKORS* CLAIM--YOU *CREATED* ZODIAK? BUT--

HOLY HOGGOTH!

WHAT'S *WRONG* WITH YOU?

WRONG? WHY, QUITE THE *CONTRARY*, MAGE!

ON THE EARTH-PLANE, ZODIAK HAS *KILLED* AGAIN!

THE *BLOOD* HE SHEDS ALWAYS RAISES OUR *SPIRITS*--

--AND, AS IN RECENT DAYS, *INCREASES OUR VERY NUMBERS!*

SOME OF THEM-- *SPLITTING APART*-- LIKE GROTESQUE *AMOEBAS!*

RIDER...?

DOCTOR...?

MAY THE WONDROUS WINDS OF WILD ***WATOOMB***--

--NOW HURL YOU BACK, THAT WE HAVE ***ROOM!***

YOU HAVE SHED ***INNOCENT BLOOD***--

--AND YOU MUST ***PAY!***

YOU REALLY *LIKE* THAT "*INNOCENT BLOOD*" PHRASE, DON'T YOU?

WHAT COUNTS IS-- WE BOTH SENSED A MOMENTARY ***WEAKENING*** OF THE DEMONS, DURING THEIR MOMENT OF "***TWINNING***"--

--AND WE TOOK FULL ***ADVANTAGE*** OF IT.

YET THERE ARE ***EVEN MORE*** OF THEM TO ATTACK US--

"--AND WHO CAN SAY WHAT THEIR CREATURE *ZODIAK* MAY BE DOING, EVEN NOW?"

WALK ON, MY GOOD FRIENDS.

NOW, SUPPOSEDLY AWAY FROM PRYING EYES, YOU CAN DROP YOUR CLUMSY HUMAN DISGUISES...

...AND, WONDER OF WONDERS--GO YOUR *SEPARATE WAYS!*

YOU HAVE DONE YOUR GOOD DEED FOR THE DAY--

--SEEING THOSE FRIGHTENED YOUNGSTERS SAFELY INTO THE LOVING HANDS OF THE POLICE.

HOW FORTUITOUS!

MY DYKKOR MASTERS MIGHT WELL HAVE LITTLE OR NO USE FOR THE UNHUMAN ICHOR OF A *MINOTAUR*--

--BUT THEY CAN *ALWAYS* USE A BIT MORE BLOOD FROM A *HUMAN FEMALE!*

WHO'S THERE?

THAT CAN SCARCELY MATTER TO *YOU* ANY LONGER, DEAR GIRL.

THE LIGHTEST TOUCH OF MY *SCORPIO STING* WILL SEND YOUR BLOOD FLOWING FREELY--

--AND SEND YOUR *LIFE ESSENCE* WINGING ITS WAY ACROSS THE *DIMENSIONAL VOID!*

EH?

WHAT SORT OF DEATH RATTLE WAS *THAT??*

ARROOO

AND WHAT HUMAN BEING HAS--*GREEN BLOOD?!*

OF COURSE! *NO* HUMAN--

--THOUGH CERTAIN *ALIEN RACES* POSSESS IT IN PLENTY!

NO WONDER THE PAIR SPLIT UP!

THROUGH SOME SORT OF MINOR MAGIC, THEY HAD SWITCHED THEIR PSYCHIC GUISES BEFORE LEAVING THE POLICE STATION.

THE MINOTAUR, AT LEAST, MUST HAVE GUESSED THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN FOLLOWED--AND WISHED TO PROTECT THE FEMALE.

A MOST GALLANT EXAMPLE OF CROSS-SPECIES CHIVALRY, MAN-BULL...

...BUT ONE WHICH WILL COST YOU EVEN THE FEW *GASPS OF BREATH* YOU ARE STILL CAPABLE OF TAKING.

YOU KEEP AWAY FROM HIM!

AH! JUST AS I *HOPED* ...!

THE FEMALE IN MINOTAUR'S CLOTHING COULD NOT RESIST COMING TO AID HER FRIEND, WHEN SHE HEARD HIM BELLOW...

RINTRAH--?!

...AND, AS THE PALTRY SPELL FADES LIKE THE MORNING DEW...

...I SHALL *HAVE* WHAT I WANTED, AFTER ALL!

S-STAY BACK...!

A FLEEING WOMAN--

A *REAL* ONE, THIS TIME!

A SIGHT LIKE THE WAVING OF A RED CLOAK BEFORE A *BULL*...

OR, TO BE MORE PRECISE...

...BEFORE A *TAURUS!*

OH MY GOD...

YOU SEEM SO *ENAMORED* OF BULLS, YOUNG LADY--

--I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT APPRECIATE BEING *SKEWERED* BY BULL'S HORNS!

NNOOOO

YOU HEARD THE LADY, ZODIAK.

SHE SAID NO!

YOUZ!

NO MORE GUILTLESS BLOOD WILL BE SHED THIS NIGHT!

I'M WITH YOU, RIDER.

AND THAT INCLUDES OURS.

OMNIPOTENT OSHTUR-- I PRAY YOU, REMOVE YOUR HAND, WHICH HOLDS OPEN THE WAY TO THE DIMENSION OF THE DYKKORS!

THERE! NOW OUR PURSUERS WON'T GET THROUGH TO GIVE THEIR HUMANOID CREATION A HAND.

NOTHING COULD HELP THIS SPAWN OF THE SATANIC, MAGICIAN!

MY ONLY REGRET IS THAT THIS IS DOUBTLESS ONLY ANOTHER OF ZODIAK'S ACCURSED DOPPEL-GANGERS--

SLAM

--AND THAT MY *FATAL VENGEANCE* WILL BE SPENT AND WASTED UPON A LOATH-SOME *ARTIFICIAL CONSTRUCT!*

THIS *SPELL OF PROTECTION* WILL SHIELD YOU, TOPAZ, IN CASE ZODIAK ELUDES THE GHOST RIDER.

THANK HOGGOTH WE ARRIVED IN TIME!

IN TIME TO SAVE *ME*, YES--

--BUT WHAT OF *RINTRAH*?

I SENSE A TERRIBLE *PAIN* WITHIN HIM--

--PAIN SUCH AS I HAVE *NEVER BEFORE KNOWN* IN A LIVING BEING!

FALL, INHUMAN THING OF THE NIGHT-REGIONS!

BURST APART IN A SHOWER OF GRISLY SPARKS AND SHADOWS!

I WANT TO SEE YOU *EXPLODE INTO A MILLION SHARDS*, LIKE THOSE BEFORE YOU!

RIDER-- LET ME--

NO! THIS IS *MY* BATTLE-- AND MY ONLY REGRET--

--IS THAT THE *TRUE* ZODIAK CANNOT FEEL THE *AGONY* I WISH TO INFLICT UPON HIM!

BY ALL THE VISHANTI AT ONCE!

HE *KNOWS* HIS FOE IS ONLY A MECHANICAL STAND-IN FOR THE KILLER--AND HE'S *STILL* DRIVEN MAD BY BLOOD-LUST!

WHAT KIND OF ENTITY *IS* THIS NEW GHOST RIDER, ANYWAY?

WHERE IS HE, CONSTRUCT?

TELL ME THE PLACE WHERE YOUR HUMAN MASTER HIDES!

HE'S NOT JOHNNY BLAZE THAT'S FOR CERTAIN!

BUT-- WHAT IF ZODIAK --?

RIDER! WHAT IF THAT IS THE REAL ZODIAK--

--AND HE'S JUST FAKING BEING A DOPPEL-GANGER?

YOU DID NOT HATE ME QUITE ENOUGH, DR. STRANGE.

SWOK

UNNNH--!

ELSE YOU TOO, MIGHT HAVE BEEN FOOLED BY MY LITTLE CHARADE--

--TILL I COULD BRING OUT MY LIBRA-INSPIRED BOLA TO EVEN UP THE SITUATION!

THE SCALES SHALL NOW BE BALANCED, MY ENEMIES--

--BY THE ENERGY BARRIER IT CREATES IN ITS WHIRLING!

EVEN I--CANNOT GET THROUGH THAT WHIRLING VORTEX!

AND BEFORE I CAN BRING ONE OF MY SPELLS TO BEAR--

--THE BARRIER HAS FADED-- AND WITH IT, ZODIAK!

BUT DON'T BLAME YOURSELF FOR LETTING HIM FAKE YOU OUT, RIDER.

HE HAD ME FOOLED WITH HIS "PLAYING-POSSUM" ROUTINE, TOO.

I DO NOT DWELL ON MY PAST, DOCTOR-- BUT ON ZODIAK'S FUTURE.

WHEN NEXT I CONFRONT HIM, THAT FUTURE WILL PROVE BOTH *BRIEF* AND *GRIM.*

THEN, WHILE YOU SCOUR THE CITY ON THAT WEIRD MOTORCYCLE OF YOURS--

--LET'S SEE IF I CAN HELP YOU FIND HIM--

--WITH THESE MYSTICAL *SEND-INGS!*

WHERE *ARE* YOU, ZODIAK?

YOU MAY HIDE FROM ME TODAY--PERHAPS TOMORROW--OR EVEN THE DAY AFTER THAT--

BUT SOON, WE MUST STAND *FACE TO FACE* ONCE MORE--

SO HE ELUDED YOU, TOO, RIDER--

--JUST AS HE DID MY SENDINGS!

THEN WE SHOULD SEE TO MY TWO FRIENDS.

--AND ON THAT NIGHT, MY HANDS WILL METE OUT THE *ULTI-MATE REVENGE!*

AGREED.

SPELL OF PROTECTION -- BE NOW DISPERSED!

TOPAZ, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

YES, STEPHEN. BUT *RINTRAH*--

AT FIRST GLANCE, IT LOOKS LIKE HE SHOULD RECOVER.

RIDER, I'VE GOT TO TAKE MY APPRENTICE BACK TO MY MANSION.

THEN, YOU AND I CAN--

NO, MAGICIAN.

I APPRECIATE ALL YOU HAVE DONE, TO THIS POINT.

BUT ZODIAK IS *MY* FOE-- AND I WILL CARRY ON MY VENGEANCE QUEST ALONE.

DON'T FOOL YOURSELF THAT YOU'RE THE *ONLY* AVENGER ON THIS PLANET, GHOST RIDER.

I'LL LET YOU GO YOUR WAY, FOR NOW-- BECAUSE THOSE CHILDREN ARE SAFE.

BUT IF RINTRAH DOESN'T MAKE A FULL AND SPEEDY RECOVERY, I'LL BE GOING AFTER ZODIAK MYSELF--

--AND *HOGGOTH* HELP ANYONE WHO GETS IN MY *WAY!*

FAIR ENOUGH, DR. STRANGE.

GOODBYE.

STEPHEN-- DO YOU THINK YOUR PATHS *WILL* CROSS AGAIN SOMEDAY?

I WOULDN'T BE AT ALL SURPRISED.

AND, IF AND WHEN THEY DO, I INTEND TO FIND OUT JUST *WHO* THIS NEW GHOST RIDER REALLY *IS--!*

BUT NOW--

--RINTRAH--

DID YOU REALLY MEAN WHAT YOU TOLD THE GHOST RIDER?

WILL RINTRAH REALLY BE ALL RIGHT?

I WAS SPEAKING AS A PHYSICIAN, TOPAZ-- NOT AS A SORCER-ER--

--MUCH LESS AS A GOD.

ALL THIS--BECAUSE I STUPIDLY GOT MYSELF ***POSSESSED*** BY SOME OBSCURE ***DEMON*** WHO STILL HASN'T CAUSED ME AS MUCH TROUBLE AS A ***HEAD COLD!***

THE EVIL OF ***ZODIAK*** WOULD HAVE EXISTED, WHATEVER YOUR OWN SITUATION.

BUT THAT REMINDS ME. I BELIEVE YOU'D LIKE TO HAVE--

--THIS.

TH-THAT'S THE ***"FIRE FROM A DEMON"*** I NEED FOR MY ***SPELL OF EXORCISM***, ISN'T IT?

BUT--I THOUGHT GHOST RIDER SAID HE ***WASN'T*** A--

THIS DIDN'T COME FROM HIM.

I TOOK IT FROM ONE OF THE ***DYKKORS.***

ONE OF THE ***WHAT?***

NEVER MIND--FOR NOW.

WHAT MATTERS IS, YOU'VE NOW GOT ***TWO*** OF THREE INGREDIENTS YOU NEED TO CAST OUT THE ENTITY HIDDEN DEEP WITHIN YOU.

NO! WHAT MATTERS IS ***RINTRAH'S LIFE!***

YOU'VE ***GOT*** TO SAVE HIM, STEPHEN!

YOU'VE JUST ***GOT*** TO!

WHAT MAY BE DONE BY ***MAN***, BY ***MEDICINE***, OR BY ***MAGIC***, TOPAZ--

--YOU MAY DEPEND ON ME TO DO!

AFTER THAT--

--WE CAN ONLY *PRAY!*

THE END FOR NOW...
BUT DOC'S QUEST CONTINUES NEXT MONTH IN
DR. STRANGE #29!

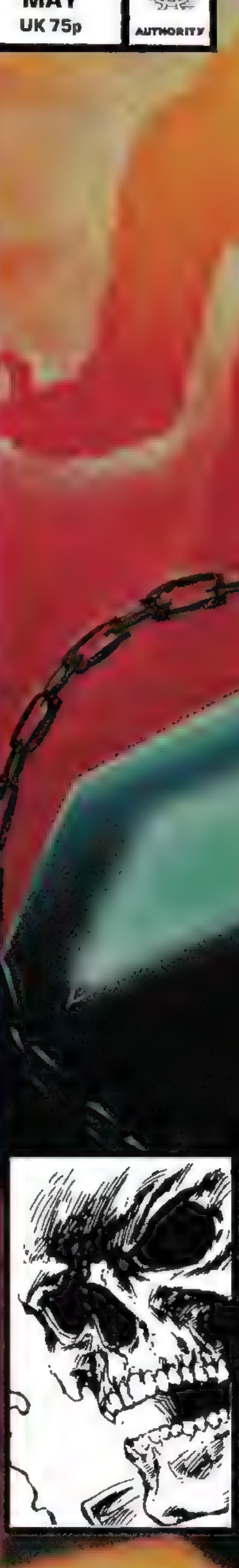
MARVEL COMICS

©1991 MARVEL ENT. GROUP, INC.

$1.50 US
$2.00 CAN
13
MAY
UK 75p

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

GHOST RIDER®



FEIRA PAUMGRTT

WHEN INNOCENT BLOOD IS SPILLED, A SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE IS BORN, AND DANNY KETCH FINDS HIMSELF TRANSFORMED. STAN LEE PRESENTS...

GHOST RIDER

CYPRESS HILLS CEMETERY, BROOKLYN...

SUNSET.

A STRANGE TRANSFORMATION IS UNDERWAY.

A TRANSFORMATION OF FIRE--

--AND OF PAIN.

A TRANSFORMATION THAT OCCURS WITHIN THE SPAN OF A HEARTBEAT.

THERE ARE TIMES THAT EVEN THE SPAN OF A HEARTBEAT SEEMS LIKE AN ETERNITY.

YOU'LL NEVER SEE WHAT'S COMING NEXT!

HOWARD MACKIE
WRITER

MARK TEXEIRA
ARTIST

JANICE CHIANG
LETTERER

GREGORY WRIGHT
COLORIST

BOBBIE CHASE
EDITOR

TOM DeFALCO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

JAMES PALMIOTTI
BACKGROUND INK

FLESH AND MUSCLE ARE ENGULFED BY HELLFIRE--

--AND SEARED AWAY UNTIL ONLY BONE REMAINS.

THE VERY ESSENCE OF DAN KETCH IS SCORCHED AND TURNED TO ASH.

ONLY THE INNER MAN IS [illegible] MOTORCYCLE.

ONLY THE GHOST RIDER.

BARBARA KETCH

CRIS

ARIANE

PALMER

MILES AWAY...

GIVE US MONEY, MAN!

QUIT TALKIN', LEONARDO! JUST CUT HIM!

DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO, DONATELLO!

C'MON, KIDS, WHY DON'T YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS GO BACK TO PLAYING WITH YOUR TEENAGE MUTANT--

LOUISVILLE SLUGGER

ELU GROCERY

KRAK

AGHHH!

MUTANT THIS!

PHHWW

FWOK FWOK

FIND HIS WALLET, MIKEY.

THE MONEY.

WHERE IS IT, JERK?

MONEY.

THE MONEY.

YOU CAN GO TO--

PHMM

STOP! YOU'RE KILLING HIM!

MAYBE SHE'S GOT SOME MONEY--

N-NO! GET AWAY! I'LL GIVE YOU WHATEVER YOU WANT--JUST LEAVE ME ALONE--

--AND C-CALL OFF THE KIDS!

WHO'S SHE TALKIN' TO?

HOW DO I KNOW?

WHO'S THAT BEHIND US?

GUARDIAN ANGEL?

HELL'S ANGEL?

THAT AIN'T NO ANGEL, MAN--

--THAT'S THE GHOST RIDER!

LET'S KICK HIS BUTT!

YEAH! MAYBE HE'S GOT SOME MONEY.

EVANS

LAZ

OR WE COULD KILL HIM AND TRADE THE BIKE TO JORGIO FOR SOME CRACK!

WHK PHMF WHAM

THEY HAVE NO FEAR.

THEIR MINDS ARE NOT THEIR OWN.

CORRUPTED BY THE DRUGS. BY THE STREETS. BY THE DEALERS.

ANS

THE ONE WHO SUPPLIED THE DRUGS TO THESE INNOCENTS WILL PAY.

THE BLOOD SPILLED IS ON HIS HANDS.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

WHERE ARE YOU TAKING THEM?

LOOK WHAT THEY DID TO MY HUSBAND!

KILL THEM! KILL THEM!

KILL... THEM...

YOUR HUSBAND WILL BE AVENGED.

LATER THAT NIGHT...

THESE LATE NIGHTS OUT AS GHOST RIDER ARE *KILLING* ME.

I HAVEN'T HAD A *DECENT* NIGHT'S SLEEP SINCE GHOST RIDER CAME INTO MY LIFE. OH, WELL--

--MAYBE I CAN STILL CATCH THE TAIL END OF *ARSENIO*.

MOM?

SHE LOOKS *EXHAUSTED*. MUST BE PUTTING IN TOO MUCH OVERTIME.

HEY, *MOM*. UP PRETTY *LATE* FOR AN OLD LADY!

OH, HELLO, DANIEL.

WHO WAS THAT IN THE CAR? DON'T TELL ME YOU HAVE A BOYFRIEND!

IT'S *LATE*, DANIEL. I'VE GOT TO GET TO BED.

GOOD NIGHT.

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO US?

ELSEWHERE... A MAN. A MISSION. AN ARSENAL.

MOTEL

MOTEL

BUGLE

GHOST MENACE OR FRIEND?

BY JAMES RAIMONDI

RECENTLY THE

beep beep beep

HELLO?

JOHNNY, IS THAT YOU? PLEASE TALK TO ME, JOHNNY.

WE ALL LOVE YOU! PLEASE COME HOME--

CLIK

GHOST MEN OR FRIEND

KRAK

THE NEXT DAY...

I.C.U.

THE KIDS FROM LAST NIGHT WEREN'T OVERLY COOPERATIVE.

THEY WERE SO WHACKED OUT THAT THEY WEREN'T EVEN *AFRAID* OF GHOST RIDER.

THEY WERE BABBLING INCOHERENTLY.

387

THE ONLY NAME THEY MENTIONED WAS SOMEONE NAMED *SNOW BLIND.*

WHO IS SNOW BLIND?

SIGN HERE, PLEASE!

SURE! ARE YOU FROM THE NEW MESSENGER SERVICE? I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU BEFORE. BUT THEN AGAIN I'M PRETTY NEW AROUND HERE MYSELF. MY NAME'S *RENEE FUANARO.* I'M FROM QUEENS. THIS IS PRETTY EASY WORK. I JUST SIT HERE ALL DAY LONG AND ANSWER THE PHONES. I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THE COMPANY DOES...

I.C.U.

INTERNATIONAL CONTRACTORS UNLIMITED

NOW I'VE GOT TO FIND THIS SNOW BLIND -- *WHOEVER* HE IS!

I'M NO *DETECTIVE.* HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO FIND *ONE* DRUG DEALER IN A CITY *FULL* OF THEM?

'BYE! SEE YOU AROUND!

OH, YEAH, SURE -- 'BYE!

LATER...

WELL, WHAT DO YOU THINK?

STACE! YOUR HAIR! I--

OF COURSE *YOU LOVE IT!*

NOW LET'S GO CELEBRATE MY MAKING IT THROUGH MY FIRST WEEK AT THE POLICE ACADEMY IN ONE PIECE.

I CAN'T EXPLAIN RIGHT *NOW.*

SORRY!

I'LL CALL YOU.

I CAN'T. NOT *TONIGHT.*

WHAT? WHY *NOT?*

HE'LL *CALL* ME?

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO US? I *NEVER* SEE HIM ANYMORE, MRS. KETCH!

I'M *SORRY,* STACY. BUT WE'VE *ALL* BEEN THROUGH SO MUCH.

WHY AM I PUSHING STACY *AWAY* FROM ME? SHE'S THE BEST AND MOST STABLE THING IN MY LIFE. I'VE GOT TO MAKE THIS UP TO HER SOON.

NOW! HOW DO I FIND THIS SNOW BLIND?

HOW WOULD DIRTY HARRY GO ABOUT FINDING A COMMON DRUG DEALER?

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS...

IN AN HISTORIC BROWNSTONE, NOT FAR FROM THE PROMENADE, RESIDES THE DRUG DEALER KNOWN AS--

BRRNG

SNOW BLIND HERE!

YES. THE SAME GENTLEMAN WHO HAS INTERFERED IN A *NUMBER* OF MY OPERATIONS.

NO. I HAVEN'T GONE AFTER HIM. I'M A BUSINESS-MAN *NOW*, NOT AN *ASSASSIN*.

THAT WAS A *LONG TIME* AGO.

I THOUGHT *YOU* HAD STRONG MEN FOR THIS TYPE OF WORK--IT'S NOT *MY* PROBLEM THAT *YOUR MAN* HASN'T BEEN ABLE TO--

--YES. I'D LIKE TO CONTINUE DOING BUSINESS WITH YOU--

--YES, *YES*.

I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT.

YES.

TWO HOURS LATER...

WHERE IS YOUR SUPPLIER?

WHERE IS SNOW BLIND?

MY TECHNIQUES FOR OBTAINING INFORMATION ARE NOT SUBTLE--

--BUT THEY ARE EFFECTIVE.

A-A-A B-BROWNSTONE IN BROOKLYN HEIGHTS!

K-KEEP GOING DOWN ATLANTIC AVENUE TILL YOU GET TO THE PROMENADE--

HE'LL F-F-FIND YOU, M-M-MAN! H-H-HE'LL KILL YOU!

N-N-NOW LET ME G-G-GO--

PLEEEASE!

ALL UNITS! ALL UNITS! LOOKS LIKE OUR TIP WAS RIGHTEOUS!

OUR TARGET IS MOVING INTO THE SECURED AREA. HE'S ARMED AND DANGEROUS--SO TAKE HIM DOWN QUICK.

YOU ON THE MOTORCYCLE-- FREEZE!

D-DON'T S-SHOOT!

FIRE!

HE'S GRABBING FOR HIS CHAIN!

PHT TING PHT TING

AGHHHH!

BRRR

RR

THINK

THIS WILL STOP.

CAPTAIN, THAT THING AIN'T STOPPIN'!

SWAT

POLICE?

KEEP FIRING!

I WILL NOT HARM THEM.

SWAT

I WILL LOOK INTO THIS--

--AFTER I FIND SNOW BLIND.

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

MS. TOFIELD.

I HAVE RECEIVED WORD THAT WE CAN EXPECT A *VISITOR* SHORTLY.

PLEASE SEE TO IT THAT *ALL* INCRIMINATING EVIDENCE IS REMOVED FROM THE PREMISES.

I'M HAVING ALL COMPUTER RECORDS *TRANSFERRED*, AND ALL HARD COPIES ARE BEING *DESTROYED*.

EXCELLENT.

NOW PLEASE **MAKE SURE** THAT ALL THE STAFF VACATES THE PREMISES.

YOUR PERSONAL *BODYGUARDS*?

UNNECESSARY.

GOOD EVENING, SIR.

GOOD EVENING, FRANCESCA.

CLIK

AND SO I WAIT.

CCHHSSHH

SNOW BLIND.

I'M AFRAID YOU HAVE ME AT A DISADVANTAGE.

MY SOURCES TELL ME THAT YOU ARE SOMEWHAT FRIGHTENING TO LOOK AT, BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, I'VE BEEN *BLIND* SINCE BIRTH.

UNDER *NORMAL* CIRCUMSTANCES, I CAN'T SEE A THING, BUT I GUESS YOU COULD SAY I'VE BEEN BLESSED WITH A *GIFT*.

WHSHH

I AM ABLE TO PROJECT A FIELD OF *VISIBLE LIGHT*. ONLY *I* CAN SEE IN THIS LIMITED FIELD, AND MY *STRENGTH* INCREASES.

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATHS OF MANY INNOCENT CHILDREN.

SMSHH

I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR *ME* AND ME *ALONE*, MAN.

NO ONE TOOK CARE OF ME WHEN I WAS GROWING UP. THESE KIDS ARE ON THEIR OWN--THE ***STRONG*** ONES WILL SURVIVE.

KRCK

THAM

TO KILL MORE CHILDREN.

YOU CAN SEE *ME?*

HOW DO YOU LIKE *THAT?*

AS FAR AS THE KIDS THAT BUY MY STUFF ARE CONCERNED--

--IF THEY REALLY WANT TO KILL EACH OTHER OFF--

--I REALLY *DON'T CARE!*

THIS HAS BEEN *INTERESTING.*

I'D LOVE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WHY YOU'RE THE *ONLY* PERSON THAT CAN SEE ME IN MY *WHITE FIELD.*

BUT I'VE GOT A BUSINESS TO RUN, SO IT'S TIME FOR THIS LITTLE MEETING TO COME TO AN END--

--*PERMANENTLY!*

NOT BEFORE YOU FEEL THE PAIN THAT YOU HAVE INFLICTED ON OTHERS.

YOU'VE MISTAKEN ME FOR SOMEONE WHO *CARES.*

YOU'VE MISTAKEN ME FOR A MORTAL.

OH! IS THIS YOUR *PENANCE STARE* I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT?

WHERE YOU LOOK INTO MY EYES AND I'M TURNED TO JELLY BY WHAT I SEE? WELL--

FFFT

I CAN'T SEE A THING NOW, SO...

DROP HIM!

CLIK

CLIK

BBBRPP

THAT THING HAS GOT TO BE BROUGHT DOWN, CAPTAIN HOFFMAN. HE IS A DANGER TO MY OPERATIONS AND THUS--

--TO THE NEW HOUSE THAT YOU BOUGHT WITH THE MONEY I PAY YOU TO TAKE CARE OF THINGS LIKE THIS.

I KNOW WHAT WE NEED.

CLIK

NO! GENE!

BLAM

KSSSHH

NICE, CAPTAIN. VERY INVENTIVE. THERE WILL BE AN EXTRA BONUS FOR YOU THIS WEEK. AND YOU CAN HAVE WHAT THE LATE LIEUTENANT WOULD HAVE RECEIVED HAD HE LIVED.

OFFICER DOWN. OFFICER NEEDS ASSISTANCE.

SHORTLY...

ARE YOU SURE THE INFORMATION IS CORRECT?

ONCE AGAIN YOU HAVE NOT FAILED ME, LINDA.

I LOOK FORWARD TO WATCHING YOUR BROADCAST,

GOODBYE.

NOW THE ENTIRE CITY WILL BE AFTER HIM. I CAN CARRY OUT MY PLAN AND LOOK LIKE A HERO TO THE COMMUNITY.

MS. BEACHUM!

GET ME TYLER MEAGHER ON THE PHONE. I WANT HER WOMEN OUT ON THE STREETS NOW.

GHOST RIDER IS OUT THERE--

--AND I WANT HIS HEAD.

CYPRESS HILLS CEMETERY...

THE TRANSFORMATION REVERSES ITSELF.

THE HELLFIRE DIMINISHES.

THE PAIN FADES.

THE MEMORY FADES.

HOW COULD THE COPS HAVE ANTICIPATED ALL OF GHOST RIDER'S MOVES?

WHY WERE THEY PROTECTING A KNOWN DRUG DEALER?

MAYBE I SHOULD TALK TO CAPTAIN DOLAN.

RIGHT. OH, CAPTAIN DOLAN, I'VE BEEN TRANSFORMING INTO THE DEMONIC BIKER THAT YOU AND YOUR DEPARTMENT ARE SEEKING, BUT NEVER MIND ABOUT THAT. I WAS WONDERING IF WE COULD DISCUSS POLICE CORRUPTION.

I DON'T THINK SO--

CLIK

DON'T EVEN *BREATHE* HARD.

BACK *AWAY* FROM THE BIKE.

DON'T THINK ABOUT *TOUCHING* IT.

HEY! I DON'T HAVE ANY CASH ON ME--

SHUT UP AND TURN AROUND!

YOU WEREN'T AS HARD TO FIND AS I THOUGHT.

EITHER I STILL HAVE A LINK WITH THIS DEMON OF YOURS, OR YOU JUST AREN'T TOO BRIGHT.

BY THE WAY, MY NAME IS *JOHN BLAZE*--

--AND I'M EITHER GOING TO *KILL* THE GHOST RIDER, OR I'M GOING TO HAVE TO KILL *YOU!*

NEXT ISSUE:

SHOWDOWN!

MARVEL COMICS

$1.50 US
$2.00 CAN
14
JUNE
UK 60p

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

JOHNNY BLAZE VS.

GHOST RIDER

WHEN INNOCENT BLOOD IS SPILLED, A SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE IS BORN, AND DANNY KETCH FINDS HIMSELF TRANSFORMED. STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

GHOST RIDER

HAPPILY EVER AFTER?

IT'S ZARATHOS I WANT TO KILL, KID, NOT YOU! BUT...

MMMPH!

HOWARD MACKIE • WRITER
TEX • ARTIST
JANICE CHIANG • LETTERER
GREGORY WRIGHT • COLORIST
BOBBIE CHASE • EDITOR
TOM DeFALCO • EDITOR IN CHIEF

AND, I ASSURE YOU, I *AM* GOING TO FIND A WAY TO KILL THAT DEMON!

HOTEL

BOOKIE PARLOR

SO, DAN, JUST QUIT YOUR SQUIRMING AND THIS WILL GO A LOT EASIER ON BOTH OF US!

MMMPH... MMMGLLE MMMPPH!

I *DON'T* WANT TO *HEAR* IT ANYMORE, KID.

I KNOW *YOU* DON'T BELIEVE THAT IT'S ZARATHOS WHO *POSSESSES* YOU. AND I'M SURE THAT YOU *BELIEVE* THAT THE GHOST RIDER IS AN INSTRUMENT OF *GOOD*, BUT I KNOW BETTER.

YOU JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TYPE OF FORCES YOU'RE *PLAYING* AROUND WITH, KID.

SO GIVE YOUR MOUTH A REST AND *MAYBE* I'LL TAKE THE GAG OFF.

KKRRRRING

WHAT? NO ONE KNOWS I'M HERE...!

YEAH!

HOW DID YOU FIND ME?

I KNEW I SHOULDN'T HAVE CALLED.

I CAN'T COME HOME *YET*.

THIS IS *IMPORTANT* TO ME.

I'M SORRY.

YOU KNOW I LOVE YOU, TOO--ALL OF YOU. DON'T WORRY.

CLIK

MMPH?

I'M *RISKING* IT ALL JUST COMING HERE--MY FAMILY, MY HAPPINESS, *MY LIFE!*

ALL SO THAT THE *EVIL* ISN'T UNLEASHED ON THIS WORLD *AGAIN*.

AND ALL BECAUSE SOME *STUPID KID* GOT INVOLVED IN FORCES HE *COULDN'T* UNDERSTAND.

I *SHOULD* JUST KILL YOU AND BE DONE WITH IT. SAVE EVERYBODY A LOT OF TROUBLE--*YOU* INCLUDED.

BUT THAT ISN'T MY WAY.

I WAS A STUPID KID TOO, ONCE.

NOW ***SHUT UP!*** WE'VE GOT A WAIT AHEAD OF US BEFORE I CAN ELIMINATE OUR FLAMING-HEADED FRIEND!

IN THE SEWERS BENEATH CENTRAL PARK...

CENTRAL PARK WEST

BACKED UP SEWER STINKIN' UP THE PARK'S GOTTA BE CLEANED OUT RIGHT AWAY!

CAN'T HAVE THE MAYOR'S BLACK-TIE AFFAIR AT *TAVERN ON THE GREEN* SMELLIN' LIKE YESTERDAY'S LUNCH.

SO HERE WE ARE, THE MAYOR'S OWN PERSONAL ROTO-ROOTER MEN.

KLIK

TINK

HEY, NORTON, WAIT UP! I DROPPED MY FLASH!

PROBABLY JUST SOME OF THEM FAMOUS NEW YORK SEWER ALLIGATORS--

OH, MY!

O-DEAD BODIES! DOZENS OF 'EM! THAT'S WHAT'S BLOCKIN' THE SEWER PIPES!

WHATTA YA YAMMERIN' ABOUT, NORTON? I STILL CAN'T FIND MY FLASHLIGHT!

HURRY UP, RALPHIE-BOY! THIS IS HORRIBLE! WE GOTTA GET THE COPS--

HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON WITH MY FLASHLIGHT?

HURRY UP, FRIEND OF MINE! I THINK SOMETHING IS MOVING--

RALPH...

NORTON!

OH, NORTON!

DON'T WORRY, PAL, I'M COMIN'!

NORTON...

HAMMANNA...

PSSST!

WHAT? WHO?

HUSH

POLICE

KILLED

POLICE ARE STILL SEEKING GHOST RIDER IN CONNECTION WITH THE DEATH OF **LT. DWIGHT JONES.**

JONES WAS BRUTALLY MURDERED LAST WEEK WHILE INVOLVED IN A POLICE OPERATION TO APPREHEND THE MOTORCYCLE-RIDING VIGILANTE.

PERHAPS, NOW THAT ONE OF THEIR **BRETHREN** HAS FALLEN BEFORE THIS KILLER, THE POLICE WILL NOW BE MOTIVATED ENOUGH TO APPREHEND HIM.

WE KNOW THE COPS WILL ***NEVER*** BE ABLE TO CATCH HIM -- RIGHT, KID?

IF THE ***POLICE*** CAN'T, HOW DO YOU PLAN ON CATCHING HIM?

CATCHING HIM IS THE FURTHEST THING FROM MY MIND, KID! HAVEN'T YOU BEEN LISTENING?

YEAH. RIGHT.

WHAT DID YOU DO WITH MY BIKE? HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO HOLD ME HERE? WHY--

ENOUGH WITH THE TALK!

UNLESS OF COURSE, YOU ***WANT*** THE GAG BACK IN YOUR MOUTH?

PARK

KILLING

WE HAVE JUST BEEN HANDED A REPORT ABOUT A **GRUESOME** KILLING IN CENTRAL PARK.

SEVERAL PEOPLE HAVE DISAPPEARED FROM THE PARK TODAY AND APPARENTLY BODIES HAVE BEEN RECOVERED. DETAILS ARE SKETCHY NOW, BUT THERE ARE RUMORS OF THE BODIES BEING TERRIBLY MUTILATED, AND AT LEAST ONE HAS BEEN DECAPITATED.

MORE NEWS AS DETAILS ARE RELEASED.

NO!

IT'S STARTING AGAIN!

IT'S *HIM!*

YOU'VE *GOT* TO LET ME GO! IT'S *BLACKOUT* WHO'S KILLING ALL THESE PEOPLE. WE'VE GOT TO *STOP HIM!*

SORRY, KID, IT'S NOT MY BUSINESS. BESIDES, IT'S TOO LATE TO HELP THOSE PEOPLE.

SO *SHUT UP!*

MMMMPH!

VINCE EVANS

1961-1984

AT THAT MOMENT IN SALEM FIELDS...

DAN KETCH'S MOTORCYCLE LIES **QUIETLY** AMONGST THE TOMBSTONES WHERE JOHN BLAZE HAD LEFT IT.

OR DOES IT?

DAN STRUGGLES--

--AS MINUTES PASS.

WHAT THE--?

BROOAR

BREWERY COMPANY LIMITED

BEER

KA-WHOOM

THE BIKE?

DON'T TRY *ANYTHING*, KID! I DON'T WANT TO *KILL* YOU!

MMMPH!

ARRRRRR

FWOOSH

YOU WILL DO *NOTHING* TO ME.

DON'T *BET* ON IT!

TIK

I *COMMAND* YOU TO STAY, *ZARATHOS!* IN THE NAME OF ISHT...HOGO... AND AGAM...I *COMMAND* THAT THIS *PENTAGRAM* CONTAIN YOUR VILE PRESENCE.

CURSE YOU FOR FORCING ME TO USE THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE OCCULT THAT I *FORESWORE* YEARS AGO.

THIS IS YET *ANOTHER* REASON WHY I'LL SEE YOU *DEAD,* DEMON!

IN MIDTOWN MANHATTAN...

BUZZZ

COME IN--

2! 3! 4! 5! 7! 8! 9! 0!

INFRARED ENGAGED

--BLACKOUT.

MY, MY! YOU'RE NOT LOOKING YOUR NORMAL *RAKISH* SELF.

THINGS HAPPEN, *DEATHWATCH.*

NO THANKS TO *YOU!*

DID WORD GET TO YOU? HAVE YOU DONE THAT WHICH I *REQUIRE?*

I AM *NO LONGER* YOUR WHIPPING BOY, DEATHWATCH!

NOT SINCE YOUR *BETRAYAL* LED TO THE *DISFIGUREMENT* OF MY FACE!

DON'T *FORCE* THIS CONFRONTATION, *BLACKOUT.* I KNOW THAT YOU FEEL BETRAYED BY OUR LAST RUN-IN WITH THE GHOST RIDER. I HAVE HEARD THAT YOUR POWERS HAVE *INCREASED*, BUT DO *NOT* UNDERESTIMATE MINE!

FOR NOW, WE DO HAVE A COMMON *ENEMY*, AND I ASSURE YOU THAT I CAN HELP YOU GET YOUR FACE FIXED.

YOU *ARE* A SMOOTH TALKER, DEATHWATCH, BUT ONE DAY SOON WE WILL *HAVE TO* HAVE AT EACH OTHER.

AND I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT YOU WILL BE SURPRISED AT *EXACTLY* HOW MUCH POWER *I* WIELD.

I'LL DO THIS JOB FOR YOU, BUT TELL THOSE *TRAMPS* THAT YOU HAVE WORKING FOR YOU THAT THEY ARE NOT TO KILL GHOST RIDER, OR *ESPECIALLY* DANNY.

THEY ARE MINE.

OH, *YES!* HERE'S A *GIFT* FOR YOU.

whump

MS. MEAGHER?

HAVE YOUR PEOPLE READY TO MOVE AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE. THE *BAIT* HAS BEEN SET.

GHOST RIDER WILL COME TO *YOU!*

MEANWHILE...

I FEEL AS THOUGH I'VE SPENT MY ENTIRE LIFE HEADING TOWARDS THIS MOMENT, ZARATHOS.

"AND YOUR DEATH WILL *EXORCISE* ALL THE TRAGEDY THAT HAS PLAGUED ME THROUGHOUT MY LIFE.

"IT BEGAN THE MOMENT MY FATHER TOOK ME ON THE ROAD WITH THE *CRASH SIMPSON DAREDEVIL CYCLE SHOW.*

"WATCHING MY FATHER PERFORM WERE SOME OF THE HAPPIEST TIMES OF MY LIFE. HE WAS MY HERO. HE WAS *INVINCIBLE.*

"OR SO I THOUGHT.

"AFTER HIS *DEATH* I THOUGHT I COULD FIND HAPPINESS WITH *CRASH* AND *MONA* SIMPSON. THEY TOOK ME IN AS ONE OF THEIR OWN.

"THAT'S WHEN I MET *ROXANNE.*

"BUT EVEN THOSE TIMES WHERE FILLED WITH *MISFORTUNE.*

"*FIRST,* MONA, WHO WAS LIKE A MOTHER TO ME, DIED IN AN ACCIDENT THAT I ALWAYS FELT RESPONSIBLE FOR--

"--AND THEN CRASH DEVELOPED *TERMINAL* CANCER.

"I COULDN'T TAKE IT ANY MORE.

"I MADE A DEAL WITH *MEPHISTO*--YOUR MASTER--TO SPARE CRASH'S LIFE FROM THAT WASTING DISEASE.

"BUT *EVERY* DEAL WITH THE DEVIL COMES WITH A PRICE.

"MEPHISTO *BETRAYED* ME--

"--AND ON THAT DAY I LOST *BOTH* CRASH SIMPSON AND A PART OF MY *SOUL*.

"I WAS TURNED INTO JUST ANOTHER PAWN OF MEPHISTO'S--

"--I BECAME THE *GHOST RIDER*.

"FOR YEARS I STRUGGLED TO GAIN CONTROL OVER THE DEMON THAT POSSESSED MY BODY.

"CONTROL OVER YOU, ZARATHOS.

"FINALLY, I BELIEVED THAT MY NIGHTMARE WAS OVER WHEN YOU AND CENTURIOUS WERE TRAPPED IN THE SOUL CRYSTAL.

*FOR MORE COMPLETE DETAILS ON THIS STORY, SEE THE "GHOST RIDER RIDES AGAIN" SERIES ON SALE SOON.
--ROBBIE

"EVERYTHING IN MY LIFE SEEMED TO TAKE A TURN FOR THE BETTER.

"ROXANNE AND I MARRIED.

"WE HAVE TWO CHILDREN.

"I BOUGHT THE OLD QUENTIN CARNIVAL.

"WE WERE HAPPY.

"I WAS *FINALLY* HAPPY.

"BUT YOU CAME BACK.

"AT FIRST I TRIED TO IGNORE YOU.

"BUT HOW COULD I? I KNEW, BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE EVER COULD, THE KIND OF EVIL YOU FED ON.

"I COULDN'T LET YOU ROAM FREELY IN THIS WORLD--

"--THE WORLD INTO WHICH I HAD BROUGHT TWO CHILDREN."

NO, ZARATHOS, YOU *MUST* DIE!

NOT BY YOUR HANDS.

ARRRGH!

FWOOOOOSH

FLAMES...HELLFIRE... FLOWING FROM MY BODY, THROUGH HIS WEAPON, TO HIM.

WHY? HOW?

THESE FLAMES HAVE ONLY LEFT MY BODY ONE OTHER TIME.*

*IN FANTASTIC FOUR #349. --BOBBIE

HIS MAGICKS CANNOT HOLD ME.

HE IS NOT EVIL--ONLY MISGUIDED IN HIS ATTEMPTS TO HARM ME.

STOP!

I CANNOT ALLOW YOU TO DELAY ME ANY LONGER.

BLACKOUT MUST BE STOPPED.

BELIEVE ME. I AM NOT THIS ZARATHOS THAT YOU SEEK.

THAT *MAY* BE TRUE--BUT I CAN'T TAKE THAT CHANCE!

CLICK

YOUR GUN CANNOT HURT ME. OTHERS HAVE TRIED. AND--

KRA-KOOM

ARGHH!

HOTEL

KEESH

PAIN.

SUCH INTENSE PAIN.

THE BLAST FROM HIS WEAPON... I'VE NOT FELT ANYTHING LIKE IT SINCE MY REBIRTH.

EXIT

PARKING LOT GUESTS ONLY

WHAT HAPPENED TO MY GUN?

A BLAST OF HELLFIRE?

WHERE DID IT COME FROM?

I'M NOT GOING TO LOOK A GIFT HORSE IN THE MOUTH.

OKAY, DEMON, I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU DID TO MY GUN, OR WHY... BUT IT'S YOUR FUNERAL.

NO. YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.

KRAKOM

MY LEG... SHATTERING.

ARE YOU *SUFFERING*, ZARATHOS?

KRA-KOOM

SUFFERING LIKE ALL THE POOR SOULS WHO WERE ON THE *RECEIVING END* OF YOUR HELLFIRE?

IT'S *YOUR* TURN TO EXPERIENCE SOME PAIN.

NO.

KRA-KOOM

NO.

KRA-KOOM

THERE SEEMS TO BE AN *ENDLESS* SUPPLY OF HELLFIRE IN THE GUN!

HOW CAN I USE THIS STUFF AGAIN AFTER ALL THESE YEARS? AM I TRADING MY *SOUL* ONCE AGAIN FOR *VENGEANCE?*

KRA-KOOM
KRA-KOOM
KRA-KOOM

I...AM NOT... ZARATHOS...

IF I DIE TONIGHT, MY MISSION ENDS.

BLACKOUT WILL GO UNPUNISHED.

HE WILL CONTINUE TO GO ON SLAUGHTERING INNOCENTS.

KRA-KOOM
KRA-KOOM
KRA-KOOM

THEIR BLOOD WILL BE ON MY HANDS.

I MUST GET AWAY.

GO TO CENTRAL PARK.

STOP BLACKOUT.

CLIK

IT'S OVER.

BUT WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE *KID* THAT HE'S *POSSESSING* IF I KILL THE GHOST RIDER?

HE HESITATES...!

WHAM

THE BLOOD THAT BLACKOUT HAS SPILLED MUST BE AVENGED.

VROOM

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED HERE TONIGHT, GHOST RIDER--

-- BUT IT LOOKS LIKE YOU SOMEHOW GAVE ME THE MEANS TO KILL YOU.

AND I PLAN ON FINISHING WHAT WE STARTED!

NEXT ISSUE: *H.E.A.R.T., BLAZE, DEATHWATCH IN A*

SHOWDOWN IN CENTRAL PARK

MARVEL COMICS

GHOST RIDER

TM

© 1991 MARVEL ENT GROUP INC

$1.75 US
$2.25 CAN
15
JULY
CC 01317

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

TEX

WHEN INNOCENT BLOOD IS SPILLED, A SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE IS BORN, AND DANNY KETCH FINDS HIMSELF TRANSFORMED. STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

GHOST RIDER

EARLIER IN THE EVENING, GHOST RIDER FOUGHT JOHNNY BLAZE.

EARLIER IN THE EVENING HE EXPERIENCED PAIN.

EARLIER IN THE EVENING HE TASTED DEFEAT.

BUT NOW GHOST RIDER RIDES WITH HIS PAIN IN AN ATTEMPT TO STOP THE MANIACAL BLACKOUT FROM SLAUGHTERING MORE INNOCENTS.

LAST HOPE

MACKIE/TEX/CHIANG/WRIGHT/CHASE/DeFALCO

YO, BERNIE! AIN'T THAT THE *GHOST RIDER* HEADIN' TOWARDS THE PARK?

YEAH! CALL FOR BACK-UP!

FREEZE, COP KILLER!

HE'S TRYING TO GET AWAY!

NAIL 'IM!

BLAM

SCREE BLAM BLAM

CANNOT FIGHT THEM.

I MUST REST. REGAIN MY STRENGTH.

125TH ST. PARK AVE.

GOT AWAY FROM THE POLICE, BUT--

--CAN'T--

--GO--

--ON.

GOY

SUCH PAIN!

I DIDN'T THINK THAT GHOST RIDER COULD BE *HURT* LIKE THAT.

I'VE GOT TO GET DOWN TO CENTRAL PARK AND BE READY FOR *BLACKOUT* TONIGHT.

YO, YUPPIE! WHAT YOU DOIN' IN *OUR* NEIGHBORHOOD?

GIVE US YOUR MONEY AND THE *BIKE*! AND THEN START WALKIN'!

COME ON! GIVE ME A BREAK! I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS *EEAAAHH!*

YA GOT TIME FOR THIS?

SLASH

WHAM

YOU *BETTER* RUN, YUPPIE!

LET'S RUN 'IM DOWN WITH HIS OWN BIKE!

CHILL OUT, BRO! THIS IS *MY* BIKE NOW!

BACK AWAY FROM THE BIKE! NOW!

WHAT YOU *TALKIN'?*

RUN!

WAIT! THEY'RE *JUST* WOMEN!

THEY *AIN'T* TAKIN' MY BIKE FROM ME!

LUZ! *TYLER* SAID NO GUNS WITH CIVILIANS!

BACK OFF, *DANIKA!* *I'M* FROM THESE STREETS. THESE *CRACKHEADS* AREN'T CIVILIANS -- THEY'RE *PARASITES* THAT PREY OFF THE WORKING PEOPLE.

"I'LL PUT AWAY THE PIECE LIKE A GOOD SOLDIER! BUT I'M TELLIN' YOU IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR EVERYONE IF WE JUST *WASTED* THEM! WE'D PROBABLY GET A PARADE!"

LET'S DO 'EM!

TOO BAD YOU'RE TOO *WHACKED* TO APPRECIATE HOW GOOD WE ARE, BOYS! TOO WHACKED TO BE *SCARED!*

ENOUGH *TALK.* LUZ. LET'S CLEAN IT UP AND GET THE BIKE.

THAK

POOM

YOU *SURE* THIS IS THE BIKE? DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THE ONE WE SAW GHOST RIDER ON IN THE CEMETERY. DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ANYTHING SPECIAL AT ALL.

OUR *SENSORS* IN CENTRAL PARK TRACKED HIM HERE BEFORE HE *BLINKED* OFF THE SCREENS!

TYLER WANTS *ALL* BIKES IN THIS AREA PICKED. I'M JUST FOLLOWING *ORDERS*. I'D ADVISE YOU TO DO THE SAME.

LET'S LOAD IT INTO THE CHOPPER AND AIRLIFT IT TO THE *WAREHOUSE*--

--OUR *EMPLOYER* IS AWAITING US.

OH, *GREAT!*

I'M A *MILE* AWAY FROM CENTRAL PARK, *BLEEDING*, MY HEAD FEELS LIKE IT'S GOING TO *SPLIT* OPEN--

--AND NOW THE BIKE IS GONE!

CAN'T GO TO THE HOSPITAL. CAN'T SPARE THE TIME. AND THE DOCTORS WOULD HAVE TO CALL IN THE POLICE.

I'VE GOT TO FIND BLACKOUT BEFORE HE *KILLS* AGAIN.

I CAN'T LET HIM KILL ANY *MORE* INNOCENT PEOPLE THE WAY HE KILLED *BARB*. IT'S *ME* THAT HE WANTS.

I HOPE MY SHOWING UP WILL BE ENOUGH TO STOP HIM.

I HOPE THAT I CAN TRANSFORM INTO GHOST RIDER IF I CONFRONT HIM.

AND I HOPE THE BIKE COMES TO ME WHEN I NEED IT.

AND I HOPE THAT GHOST RIDER AND I *LIVE* THROUGH THIS NIGHT.

ELSE-WHERE...

BOOM

WHAT HAVE I GOTTEN MYSELF INTO?

THIS THING IS SHOOTING *HELLFIRE.*

I THOUGHT I'D SEEN THE LAST OF IT WHEN I GOT RID OF ***ZARATHOS.*** BUT I ALSO THOUGHT I'D SEEN THE LAST OF GHOST RIDER.

LAST NIGHT WHEN I TRIED TO SHOOT GHOST RIDER WITH THE GUN, AND WE MADE CONTACT, I FELT AS THOUGH THE HELLFIRE WAS ATTEMPTING TO LEAP FROM HIS BODY TO MINE.

WHAT AM I, SOME SORT OF ***MAGNET*** FOR THE STUFF?

WHAT AM I DOING HERE? I SHOULD BE BACK WEST WITH ***ROXANNE*** AND THE KIDS. NOT PLAYING ***JOHNNY BLAZE,*** DEMON BOUNTY HUNTER.

AND NOW HELLFIRE AGAIN! THE SOULS I ***FRIED***... SENT TO ***MEPHISTO***... I HOPED IT WAS ALL IN THE PAST. ***BURIED.***

WELL NOW, GHOST RIDER... ZARATHOS... YOU'VE GIVEN ME THE MEANS TO BURY YOU FOR REAL.

I JUST PRAY I NEVER HAVE TO USE IT ON ANYONE ELSE.

LATER THAT NIGHT...

MY COMPLIMENTS, ***MS. MEAGHER.***

YOUR PEOPLE ***ARE*** THOROUGH.

PERHAPS WE CAN COME TO AN AGREEMENT TO PUT YOUR ORGANIZATION ON PERMANENT RETAINER TO MINE.

PERHAPS...

COME IN TONIGHT. WE CAN DISCUSS THE ARRANGEMENTS.

I'LL TAKE A RAIN CHECK ON THAT UNTIL THE JOB IS FINISHED. I INTEND ***PERSONALLY*** *TO NAIL THE GHOST RIDER IN CENTRAL PARK TONIGHT.*

NOT NECESSARY, MS. MEAGHER. YOU'VE FULFILLED YOUR END OF THE DEAL. I'M CONFIDENT THAT ONE OF THE BIKES IN FRONT OF ME BELONGS TO OUR FLAMING-SKULLED ADVERSARY.

IF IT'S ALL THE SAME TO YOU, I'D LIKE TO FINISH THE JOB WE WERE COMMISSIONED TO DO. BESIDES, I'D LIKE TO GET MY HANDS ON THE MANIAC RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MURDERS LAST NIGHT.

YOUR PEOPLE ARE NOT TO INTERFERE WITH THE EVENTS IN THE PARK TONIGHT. IS THAT UNDERSTOOD, MS. MEAGHER?

WHY NOT?

AT THAT MOMENT, IN CENTRAL PARK...

DAD IS GOING TO BE MAD WHEN HE FINDS OUT THAT WE WENT THROUGH THE PARK AT NIGHT.

HE'LL BE EVEN MORE UPSET IF WE'RE LATE AND NOT READY FOR HIS DINNER PARTY WITH MR. FABERSHAM.

Blam

Blam

SO, WHAT YOUR FATHER DOESN'T KNOW WON'T KILL US!

GOOD EVENING, LADIES!

NOOOOOO

DEEP WITHIN THE PARK...

BRANCH

GOT TO REST!

THE TREK DOWN HERE TOOK ME ALL DAY AND I'M WASTED--

--THINK I'M RUNNING A FEVER, AND MY HEAD FEELS LIKE IT'S GOING TO EXPLODE.

JUST NEED TO CLOSE MY EYES FOR A FEW...

AIEEEEEE

BLACKOUT!

HAVE TO TRY AND STOP HIM, WITH OR WITHOUT GHOST RIDER!

OUTSIDE...

THIS IS WHERE GHOST RIDER SAID HE WAS HEADING.

LOOKS LIKE THE COPS ARE OUT IN FORCE TONIGHT.

POLICE

HOPE THEY DON'T GET BETWEEN THE TWO OF US...

612

THAT SCREAM!

SCREE

COULD BE GHOST RIDER..

I'M THERE--

Krash

---NOW!

DEATHWATCH
YOU WHAT?!
YOUR MAN IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THOSE MURDERS, DEATHWATCH?! I DON'T WANT ANY PART OF THIS!
LUZ! DANIKA! GET OUT OF THERE NOW! ANYBODY TRIES TO STOP YOU-- WASTE THEM!
YOU GOT IT, BOSS!
DON'T EVEN BREATHE FUNNY!
CLIK
CLIK
LUZ! THAT SOUND I THINK I'VE HEARD IT BEFORE...IT'S--
RRRUMMMBBLLLEEE
KAWOOM

THE SCREAM... I'VE GOT TO FIND WHERE IT *CAME* FROM...

CAN BARELY SEE STRAIGHT--

OOF!

WHUMP

DANIEL, IT'S SO NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN!

I WAS HOPING THAT MY WAIT WOULDN'T BE TOO LENGTHY.

SO NICE OF YOU NOT TO DISAPPOINT ME.

BUT YOU LOOK A BIT UNDER THE WEATHER--

ANIMAL!

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH MY DAUGHTER?

WHERE IS MY BENYTHA?

DO NOT BOTHER ME, WOMAN!

CAN'T YOU SEE I'M VISITING WITH AN OLD FRIEND?!

WHAP

OH MY, IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE DEVELOPING A BIT OF AN INFECTION HERE.

YEAAAR!

OH! DID THAT HURT? SO SORRY.

YOU REALLY SHOULD HAVE THAT SHOULDER TENDED TO--

--I COULD SMELL IT HALFWAY ACROSS THE PARK. IT'S WHAT LED ME TO YOU.

THOUGH, I ASSURE YOU, BY THE TIME I AM THROUGH WITH YOU--

--YOUR SHOULDER WILL BE THE LEAST OF YOUR CONCERNS.

RRRRRRR

FWOOSH

YOUR PUNISHMENT IS LONG OVERDUE, BLACKOUT!

TCHINK

STILL WEAK, BUT BLACKOUT MUST BE STOPPED.

ABOVE THE PARK...

TYLER! THAT FLASH IN THE PARK...

FIND A CLEARING AND PUT US DOWN!

MEANWHILE...

BACK TO WHERE YOU BELONG, DEMON!

CLIK

IT'S OVER, ZARATHOS!

I'M CLOSING THIS CHAPTER ON BOTH OF OUR LIVES.

WHSH

FWIP

YOU HAVE ALLOWED THE *KILLER* TO ESCAPE.

HE *WILL* KILL AGAIN IF I DON'T STOP HIM.

DO *NOT* TRY AND STOP ME.

I AM NOT THIS ZARATHOS THAT YOU SEEK.

WE'LL SEE!

MY FLASHLIGHT JUST WENT ON THE BLINK.

IT'S JUST TOO DARK IN HERE TONIGHT.

BLACKOUT IS AHEAD.

HIS KILLING SPREE WILL END HERE.

BLACKOUT

DON'T MOVE.

HEART-1 TO ALL UNITS! THIS IS TYLER. I NEED IMMEDIATE BACK-UP. HONE IN ON MY SIGNAL.

I'VE HIT THE GHOST RIDER WITH *EVERYTHING* I'VE GOT AND, PARDON THE PUN, BUT HE LOOKS LIKE H--

I GROW TIRED OF THIS GAME.

KRAK

BLACKOUT!

NO NEED TO SHOUT, MY FRIEND! I AM *RIGHT HERE.*

AND *THIS* TASTY MORSEL IS A LITTLE INSURANCE I PICKED UP EARLIER IN THE EVENING, IN CASE I WAS UNABLE TO GET THE JUMP ON YOUNG DANIEL.

OH WELL! YOU KNOW IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SO *MUCH* EASIER FOR ME TO KILL HIM IN HIS OWN HOME, BUT I AM SUCH A PUSHOVER FOR THE THRILL OF THE CHASE.

NO! NO!

YOU WILL LET ME GO TONIGHT, OR MY NEXT BITE WILL BE *MORE* THAN A NICK.

KRIK

UNNGH!

THERE'S A GOOD GHOST RIDER.

M-M-MOTHER...

AND TWO MORE PLAYERS ENTER THE FIELD.

MR. BLAZE, I BELIEVE. AND *MS. MEAGHER*, LOOKING AS LOVELY AND DANGEROUS AS EVER.

BUT WHICH SIDE WILL THEY TAKE?

I DO SO LOVE THE *MELODRAMA* OF IT ALL.

MEAGHER

BLACKOUT MUST BE STOPPED, AND THE BLOOD ON HIS HANDS AVENGED. BUT TO DO SO PUTS THE CHILD'S LIFE AT FURTHER RISK.

*THE MORLOCK, PIXIE, FIRST POSED THE QUESTION--WHAT PRICE VENGEANCE IF MORE ARE KILLED WHILE OBTAINING IT?**

*GR#9.--BOBBIE

YOU HESITATE? *GOOD.*

YOU CANNOT STOP ME. NOT TONIGHT--NOT EVER!

AND SOMEDAY I WILL HAVE *MY* VENGEANCE FOR WHAT YOU HAVE DONE TO MY ONCE BEAUTIFUL FACE. DANIEL WILL FALL BEFORE ME AS DID HIS SWEET YOUNG SISTER.

THEN WHERE WILL YOU BE, OH SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE? I WILL CONTINUE ON. AND YOU WILL BE STUCK WHEREVER IT IS THAT YOU GO. STUCK, AND HOPEFULLY, FULLY AWARE THAT I WANT TO KILL IN YOUR NAME.

BOOM

SPAK

ARRGH!

A FEEBLE ATTEMPT, MS. MEAGHER.

BUT ONE THAT WILL RESULT--

--IN A *DEATH* NONETHELESS.

no.

NO. NOT TONIGHT.

NOT EVER AGAIN!

JEEZ! WHAT DO I DO?

GHOST RIDER IS REALLY TRYING TO SAVE THE KID. COULD I HAVE BEEN WRONG ABOUT HIM?

BUT HOW CAN I USE *HELLFIRE* AGAINST BLACKOUT? HOW CAN I RUN THE RISK OF SENDING ANOTHER SOUL TO *MEPHISTO*?

SHOOT! SHOOT US BOTH!

OR HE WILL KILL THE GIRL.

BOOOOOMMM

WELL DONE, BLAZE.

NO. NO. NO...

AAIEEEEEEEE

MY FACE!

HIS FACE NOW REFLECTS HIS SCARRED SOUL.

I CANNOT ALLOW HIS BLOOD LUST TO CONTINUE.

IF HE ESCAPES THIS TIME THE BLOOD SPILLED WILL BE ON MY HANDS.

HE MUST D--

STOP! YOU'RE KILLING HIM!

YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO CONVINCE ME THAT YOU ARE NOT ***ZARATHOS. ZARATHOS*** WAS A KILLER. ARE ***YOU?*** I'VE GOT TO KNOW ***NOW!***

NO.

THERE IS MUCH I STILL DON'T KNOW ABOUT MYSELF--

--BUT I AM NOT A KILLER.

YOU HAVE MY THANKS, BLAZE.

YEAH. RIGHT.

FREEZE!

HANDS WHERE WE CAN SEE THEM.

MOMMY!

BENYTHA!

WHAT HAPPENED HERE? AND ***WHAT*** IS THAT THING?

YOU GOT A FEW DAYS?

NEXT ISSUE:

'NUFF SAID!

MARVEL COMICS

GHOST RIDER

TM
© 1991 MARVEL ENT. GROUP, INC

$1.75 US
$2.25 CAN
16
AUG
01317

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

WHEN INNOCENT BLOOD IS SPILLED, A SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE IS BORN, AND DANNY KETCH FINDS HIMSELF TRANSFORMED. STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

GHOST RIDER

CHANGES

CYPRESS HILLS...

THE GHOST RIDER IS DYING.

MACKIE/ TEX/ CHIANG/ WRIGHT/ CHASE/ DeFALCO

THUD

BOOM

IN THE PAST 48 HOURS HIS BODY HAS BEEN TORN AND BATTERED.*

HIS LIFE'S ESSENCE IS FADING.

*SEE THE LAST TWO ISSUES.--BOBBIE

BONES HAVE BEEN SPLINTERED.

ONLY IN THE TRANSFORMATION BACK TO DAN KETCH CAN HE ESCAPE--

DAN KETCH IS DYING.

PAIN.

TIME TO GIVE IT UP, BARB.

I...

...WANT...

...REST...

BARBARA KETCH

BOOM

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS? YOU'RE KILLING ME!

IT ISN'T ME! IT'S BLAZE!

AHHH

YES. HE WANTS TO KILL US BOTH! TEAR US APART!

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

STOP HIM!

STOP HIM!

BOOMM

STOP!

TIK TIK TIK

WELCOME BACK TO THE LAND OF THE LIVING, KID.

YOU!

EASY, KID, I JUST WANT TO--

NO!

YOU WANT TO KILL US!

DANIEL! OH MY!

HE'S OKAY! JUST TOOK A TUMBLE OUT OF BED!

MOM... STACY... HELP...

HE WANTS TO KILL ME...

EASY, DAN! YOU'RE STILL *DELIRIOUS*. YOU'VE BEEN *OUT* FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS.

STACE! *PLEASE!* CALL SECURITY. YOU DON'T KNOW THIS MAN. HE'S A *KILLER!*

PLEASE GET HIM BACK IN BED! I MUST GET THIS I.V. BACK IN.

DAN!

SNAP *OUT* OF IT!

I LOVE YOU, BUT SOMETIMES YOU'RE SO *INFURIATING!*

MR. BLAZE SAVED YOUR LIFE. HE FOUND YOU NEXT TO *DEAD* IN THE CEMETERY TWO NIGHTS AGO. IF HE HADN'T FLAGGED DOWN A POLICE CRUISER AND GOTTEN YOU TO THE HOSPITAL QUICKLY YOU'D BE DEAD RIGHT NOW.

AND HE'S BEEN NICE ENOUGH TO STOP BY EVERY DAY TO SEE HOW YOU'RE DOING. GIVES YOUR MOM AND ME A CHANCE TO GET SOME FOOD FROM THE CAFETERIA.

KID, IT WAS GHOST RIDER I TRIED TO KILL, NOT YOU.

I PERSONALLY THINK YOU MIGHT WANT TO *COOL* THE *ACCUSATIONS* IF YOU WANT TO KEEP YOUR MIDNIGHT RAMBLINGS A *SECRET!*

DANIEL, I WAS SO WORRIED THAT I WAS GOING TO LOSE YOU AS I LOST YOUR SISTER.

MY PRAYERS HAVE BEEN ANSWERED.

MR. BLAZE WAS SENT TO US AND MY PRAYERS HAVE BEEN ANSWERED. IT'S AS THOUGH HE COMES FROM HEAVEN ITSELF!

I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE COMES FROM--

--BUT I DOUBT THAT IT'S HEAVEN.

ONE WEEK LATER...

MEDICAL CENTER

LOOKS LIKE I'VE BEEN ELECTED YOUR PERSONAL CHAUFFEUR, KID!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, BLAZE?

YOUR MOM AND STACY ARE BOTH BUSY. YOUR MOM ASKED ME TO PICK HER UP. SHE'S A GREAT LADY--

NO! THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN. WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!?

I CAME A LONG WAY TO KILL WHAT I THOUGHT WAS ANOTHER INCARNATION OF ZARATHOS. I'M NOT LEAVING UNTIL I'M TOTALLY SURE THAT YOUR GHOST RIDER ISN'T IT.

OF COURSE YOU COULD GET RID OF THAT BIKE OF YOURS AND SAVE US BOTH A LOT OF TROUBLE!

NO.

NOT NOW.

WHAT IF SOMEONE ELSE GOT HOLD OF THE BIKE...THE POWER, OR WHATEVER IS INSIDE THAT BIKE, AND THEY COULDN'T CONTROL IT LIKE I CAN... LIKE *YOU* COULDN'T?

WHO ARE YOU TRYING TO FOOL? NO ONE EVER CONTROLS THE KIND OF FORCES THAT YOU'RE DEALING WITH.

THIS MAY ALL BE MOOT. LAST TIME I SAW THE GHOST RIDER IT LOOKED LIKE HE WAS DYING -- THANKS TO WHATEVER IT IS HE DID TO MY GUN.

WHAT?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, KID. HE EITHER DIES OR HE COMES BACK--THERE'S NOTHING *YOU* CAN DO ABOUT IT. BUT THERE IS SOMETHING YOU NEED TO WORK ON WHETHER OR NOT THE DEMON BIKER RETURNS.

WHAT'S THAT?

LOOK! YOUR LIFE IS NEVER GOING TO BE THE SAME -- BELIEVE ME. YOU'VE EXPERIENCED WHAT VERY FEW LIVING PEOPLE EVER HAVE -- THANK GOD.

YOU CAN'T GO BACK TO BEING JUST ANOTHER KID FROM BROOKLYN.

AND IF GHOST RIDER DOES COME BACK INTO YOUR LIFE YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE TO GET A LOT MORE COMMITTED--AND A ***LOT*** TOUGHER. YOUR FRIENDS, YOUR FAMILY, AND ***YOUR OWN LIFE*** ARE ALL GOING TO BE IN CONSTANT JEOPARDY.

IF ***I*** COULD FIND YOU, AND THIS BLACKOUT GUY SEEMS TO KNOW WHO YOU ARE -- WHAT'S TO STOP SOMEONE FROM KILLING ***YOU*** WHEN YOU'RE NOT GHOST RIDER? I COULD'VE OFFED YOU THE OTHER NIGHT IN THE CEMETERY. IF BLACKOUT EVER GETS A CHANCE YOU KNOW HE'LL COME AFTER YOU AND EVERYBODY CLOSE TO YOU!

MAYBE I'LL GET MY FRIEND JACK TO TEACH ME SOME KARATE.

KARATE?

YOU DON'T HAVE THE TIME. I'VE GOT A FEW THINGS THAT I CAN TEACH YOU--

--BUT MOST OF IT IS GOING TO HAVE TO COME FROM HERE.

OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS...

"NO MARQUIS OF QUEENSBURY RULES, KID.

"NO FAIR PLAY.

"STRICTLY STREET FIGHTING.

"A CARNY ROUSTER BUDDY OF MINE ONCE TOLD ME THAT IF A FIGHT LASTED MORE THAN THREE SECONDS, YOU LOST.

"YOU WANT TO GET IN AND TAKE OUT YOUR OPPONENT AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. USE WHATEVER YOU HAVE TO.

"TAKE THE PUNCHES--

"--GET TOUGH!"

AND I WANT YOU TO GET USED TO A REAL BIKE FROM THE GROUND UP.

ONE DAY THIS MAGIC ONE OF YOURS MIGHT DISAPPEAR.

YOU'RE A QUICK LEARNER, KID. NOW JUST DON'T GET TOO COCKY!

YEAH. RIGHT.

WHAT ABOUT GHOST RIDER? YOU THINK HE'S GONE FOR GOOD?

YOU SHOULD BE SO LUCKY!

HEY, I'VE FINALLY ACCEPTED EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED TO ME. I'M NOT READY TO GIVE IT UP NOW.

HAVEN'T YOU BEEN READING THE PAPERS? THE MURDERS THAT ARE HAPPENING IN THIS CITY EVERY DAY ARE MIND BOGGLING! THE POLICE MAY HAVE *BLACKOUT* SAFELY PUT AWAY, BUT THERE ARE PLENTY OF OTHER KILLERS OUT THERE.

CAREFUL, KID. TRY TO SAVE THE ENTIRE WORLD AND YOU MAY WIND UP LOSING YOURSELF. BESIDES, IF YOU'VE BEEN READING THOSE PAPERS CLOSELY, YOU'D SEE THAT GHOST RIDER IS STILL BEING SOUGHT BY THE COPS FOR THE DEATH OF ONE OF THEIR OWN.

YOU KNOW HE DIDN'T--

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT *I* KNOW.

SCREEE!

LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE GOT COMPANY.

MRS. KETCH.

I'M READY!

MOM?

WHERE'RE YOU GOING? WHO IS THIS GUY?

I'M OFF TO CHURCH, DANIEL.

GOOD EVENING, MR. BLAZE.

LET IT DROP, KID.

YOUR MOM'S BEEN THROUGH A LOT LATELY. LET HER GO TO CHURCH AND PRAY.

COME ON, LET'S TAKE THE BIKES OUT FOR A SPIN. I'VE GOT TO BE LEAVING SOON. I'VE BEEN AWAY FROM ROXANNE AND THE KIDS FOR WAY TOO LONG.

I'M *NOT* DROPPING THIS! SHE'S MY *MOM* AND SOMETHING ISN'T RIGHT. THERE ARE NO SCHEDULED MASSES TONIGHT. SHE'S SUPPOSED TO BE AT WORK, AND I DIDN'T LIKE THE LOOK OF THE GUY DRIVING THAT CAR!

KID, I THINK YOU'RE OVERREACTING.

HEY! WHO ASKED YOU?

THIS IS WHERE I START TAKING CHARGE OF THINGS.

AND STOP CALLING ME KID!

ELSEWHERE...

SINNERS.

BLASPHEMERS.

FALSE PROPHETS.

TONIGHT, FATHER, THEY WILL FALL IN YOUR NAME.

TONIGHT, THEY WILL FALL BEFORE THE VENGEFUL WRATH OF *HOBGOBLIN.*

AN HOUR LATER...

YOU'VE GOTTEN GOOD WITH THE BIKE, KI--ER, DAN-- BUT NOT THAT GOOD!

YOU LEAD ME ON A HIGH-SPEED CHASE THROUGH MOST OF BROOKLYN AND IT TURNS OUT YOUR MOM WAS GOING TO CHURCH AFTER ALL?

THAT'S THE OLD METHODIST CHURCH. IT WAS ABANDONED YEARS AGO WHEN THE CONGREGATION GOT TOO SMALL. SINCE THEN IT'S BEEN USED AS A COMMUNITY CENTER UNTIL LAST YEAR WHEN CITY BUDGET CUTS CLOSED THEM DOWN AS WELL. I DIDN'T KNOW ANYONE HAD TAKEN IT OVER.

PALMIOTTI

BRANCH ST.

SO? SOMEONE HAS.

THIS ISN'T A CATHOLIC CHURCH. MY MOM IS A CATHOLIC.

PEOPLE CHANGE.

NOT MY MOTHER.

HOLD IT, KID.

NOW YOU GOT ME JUMPING AT SHADOWS.

LET'S BE DISCREET ABOUT THIS UNTIL WE REALLY KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON.

GREAT! NOW WE'RE SNEAKING UP ON A CHURCH!!

I'M GETTING TOO OLD FOR THIS!

THIS IS RIDICULOUS, DAN. LET'S JUST WALK IN THE DOOR, FIND YOUR MOTHER AND ASK HER WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT.

FREEZE!

KEEP YOUR HANDS WHERE I CAN SEE THEM!

SURE. JUST TURN OFF THE HIGH BEAMS!

WE'RE NOT GOING TO TRY--

WHAM

--ANYTHING!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

YOU'RE GETTING A LITTLE CARRIED AWAY.

NOPE, TEACH! JUST USING SOME OF THE REFLEXES YOU HONED.

HE WAS PULLING BACK THE HAMMER.

LET'S FIND OUT WHAT KIND OF CHURCH USES HIRED GOONS.

REMEMBER, KID, IF THINGS GET TOUGH IN THERE, GHOST RIDER MIGHT NOT BE AROUND TO SAVE YOUR BUTT!

I GUESS IT'S TIME TO SEE JUST HOW GOOD A TEACHER YOU ARE!

SHHH!

BLAZE, WHERE ARE THE CROSSES? THE STATUES?

WELCOME, SINNERS!

YOU ARE ALL SINNERS!

WE ARE ALL SINNERS!

AND EVERY PERSON PRESENT HAS LOST SOMETHING DEAR TO THEM BECAUSE OF OUR TRANSGRESSIONS.

I CAN HELP YOU.

I CAN GIVE YOU BACK THAT WHICH YOU HAVE LOST.

YOU!

COME TO ME.

YES, REVEREND STYGE!

MOM! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

ARE YOU A SINNER?

YES.

AND WHAT HAVE YOU LOST?

MY DAUGHTER-- BARBARA... SHE WAS... MURDERED... TAKEN FROM ME...

I CAN GIVE YOUR DAUGHTER BACK TO YOU.

I CAN BRING BACK BARBARA!

NO!

WHO DARES?

UP ON THE BALCONY!

MY CHILDREN, OUR CEREMONY HAS BEEN DISRUPTED. WE MUST CONCLUDE TONIGHT'S GATHERING.

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED WHILE MY DEACONS ATTEND TO IT!

REVEREND SHARP WILL TAKE THE USUAL COLLECTION.

QUESTION AND DISPOSE OF THE INTRUDERS.

YES, REVEREND.

--AND YOU WILL ALL BE NOTIFIED IN THE USUAL WAY AS TO THE LOCATION OF OUR NEXT GATHERING.

STAY COOL, DAN!

MAYBE WE CAN TALK OUR WAY OUT OF THIS!

NO TALKING!

OOPH!

BLAZE!

DANIEL?

LET GO OF MY SON!

UGPH! MOM... STAY... BACK!

YEAH! SHUT UP!

WAK

OHHH!

CRAK

WHAM!

AAGH!

YOU'VE BOUGHT IT--

CLIK

HEY!

SHIK

FWOMP

CATCH!

PURGE THEM!

THEY ARE ENEMIES OF THE REVEREND--

--ENEMIES OF THE CHURCH!

DIVE!

BLASPHEMY!

YOU DARE TO DESECRATE A HOLY PLACE WITH YOUR VIOLENCE--

-- WITH YOUR FALSE RELIGION!

FOR THAT, SINNERS--

FWOOM

--YOU WILL ALL DIE!

BOOM

BUT WHERE IS DANIEL?

STAY DOWN, MRS. KETCH! EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT!

RECENT MEMORIES FLOOD THROUGH DAN KETCH'S MIND.

MEMORIES OF HOBGOBLIN.

MEMORIES OF DEATH AND MUTILATION.

MEMORIES OF A SMALL CHILD.*

*SEE SPIDER-MAN #7. -- BOBBIE

MEMORIES OF VENGEANCE DELAYED.

HOBGOBLIN!

AH! MY MISSION *IS* RIGHTEOUS!

SATAN'S SERVANT HIMSELF IS PRESENT AT THIS UNHOLY GATHERING.

THANK YOU, LORD, FOR GIVING ME A SECOND CHANCE TO DESTROY HIM IN YOUR NAME!

NO!

THIS OTHER DETRITUS IS INSIGNIFICANT!

I WILL TRIUMPH IN YOUR NAME!

TCHINK

YOUR KILLING SPREE ENDS TONIGHT -- FOREVER!

THWIP

I DON'T THINK SO, GHOST RIDER!

AT LEAST NOT YOUR WAY!

YOU'RE A LOOSE CANNON, FLAME-HEAD!

YOU PUT WAY TOO MANY PEOPLE IN DANGER WITH THIS VENGEANCE FIXATION OF YOURS!

NO WAY I'M GOING TO LET YOU KILL HOBBY!

WHY DO YOU PROTECT THIS KILLER, *SPIDER-MAN?*

WHY HAS THE LORD CHOSEN TO PIT ME AGAINST TWO OF THE MOST POWERFUL FOES I HAVE EVER FACED?

WHY?

SO MUCH FOR THE FRIENDLY APPROACH!

HOW ABOUT WE TALK THIS OVER--SUPER HERO TO... ER...ER...?

THAT WOMAN?

A TEST?

I HAVE BEEN SENT HERE TO RESCUE THIS TRULY PIOUS WOMAN FROM THIS DEN OF DEMONS!

AND TO TEACH HER THE WAY!

STAND BACK, LITTLE MAN!

NOT LIKELY!

WHOMPH

THIS BELIEVER SHALL BE SAVED!

MY PATH IS JUST!

THROOM!!

NO!

ROLL WITH THE PUNCH, SPIDEY-- YEAH, RIGHT!

STOP INTERFERING, HERO!

HOBGOBLIN IS MINE!

HE LOOKS TICKED OFF!

THEN AGAIN I GUESS HE *ALWAYS* DOES!

BLAZE? JOHNNY BLAZE?

BUT I THOUGHT *YOU* WERE...?

WE ARE GOING TO STOP THEM BOTH!

YEAH! GO FIGURE!

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT THEM?

VROOOO

NEXT ISSUE:

GHOSTS, GHOULS, SPIDERS!

MARVEL COMICS

TM

$1.75 US
$2.15 CAN
17
SEPT
CC 01317

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

GHOST RIDER®

KEEP YOUR DISTANCE, SPIDER-MAN...

HOBGOBLIN IS MINE!

WHEN INNOCENT BLOOD IS SPILLED, A SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE IS BORN, AND DANNY KETCH FINDS HIMSELF TRANSFORMED. STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

GHOST RIDER

FOREST PARK, QUEENS...

THE GHOST RIDER IS AS CLOSE TO ANGRY AS HE EVER GETS--

THWIP

GOTCHA!

HE ISN'T COMING OFF THE BIKE AS EASILY AS I'D HOPED!

WHOA!

EITHER THIS BUILDING I'M STICKING TO IS GOING TO GIVE OR MY LEGS ARE!

I VOTE FOR *NEITHER!*

NOTHINGGGGGGGG.

OKAY, *SKULL-FACE*, YOUR VENGEANCE VENDETTA THING STOPS RIGHT HERE!

HOBGOBLIN IS MINE! AND I'M NOT ABOUT TO LET YOU *KILL HIM!*

WHEN HE TOOK THE *KETCH* WOMAN* HE BECAME *MINE!*

I WON'T KILL HIM--

--BUT I WON'T ALLOW YOU TO INTERFERE WITH MY STOPPING HIM AGAIN!

*LAST ISSUE.--BOBBIE

SUPER HEROES--HMPH!

WHO NEEDS THEM?

klik

BOOOMM

YOU'VE GOT TO HAVE FAITH!

HOWARD MACKIE WRITER • TEX ARTIST • JANICE CHIANG LETTERER • GREGORY WRIGHT COLORIST • BOBBIE CHASE EDITOR • TOM DeFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

HATE TO BREAK UP YOUR LITTLE WRESTLIN' MATCH, BUT--

--HOBGOBLIN STILL HAS MRS. KETCH. AND WE'RE HER ***BEST CHANCE*** FOR SURVIVAL!

FROM WHERE I STAND, BLAZE, THE TWO OF ***YOU*** ARE NOBODY'S BEST CHANCE!

I'LL FIND HOBGOBLIN ON MY OWN.

I'M TIRED OF YOU VIGILANTE TYPES GETTING IN MY WAY!

HEY! I'M NO VIGILANTE!

OH, WELL! GUESS HE DIDN'T HEAR ME. I REALLY DON'T CARE WHAT ***WEB-FACE*** THINKS OF ME, BUT ***WE'VE*** GOT TO TALK.

I WILL NOT LET YOU STOP ME FROM RESCUING THE WOMAN. YOU HAVE GOTTEN IN MY WAY TOO OFTEN LATELY, BLAZE.

TOUGH!

REMEMBER, THIS LITTLE BABY CAN PUNCH HOLES IN YOU BIGGER THAN A BOWLING BALL*--AND I'M PRETTY SURE IT WILL KILL YOU EVENTUALLY.

*AS SHOWN IN *GHOST RIDER* #14. --BOBBIE

ANYWAY, HOBGOBLIN AND THE WOMAN ARE LONG GONE, AND YOUR HEAVY-HANDED STYLE ISN'T GOING TO DO ANYONE ANY GOOD.

IF WE'RE GOING TO FIND AND RESCUE MRS. KETCH WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO THINK THIS THROUGH CAREFULLY.

BUT WE HAVE TO TALK FIRST. AND NOT HERE--YOU'RE WAY TOO CONSPICUOUS.

LET'S TAKE A RIDE SOMEWHERE WE CAN BOTH BE COMFORTABLE. YOU LEAD THE WAY.

I MAY NOT HAVE THE SUPERNATURAL BIKE, BUT I'M STILL ONE OF THE BEST STUNT RIDERS IN THE WORLD.

SCREE

BEEP

MINUTES LATER, IN THE CYPRESS HILLS CEMETERY...

YOU LOST ME BACK THERE, BUT FORTUNATELY YOU LEAVE AN EASY ENOUGH TRAIL TO FOLLOW.

THIS IS YOUR IDEA OF COMFORT? I WAS THINKING OF A DISCREET BAR WITH A SMOKING SECTION FOR YOU.

OKAY! ENOUGH OF THE SNAPPY BANTER. LET'S GET DOWN TO IT!

IF ANYONE CAN UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH IT'S *ME.*

I FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN IN *YOUR* SHOES AS MUCH AS I'VE BEEN IN *DAN'S.* I FOUGHT ZARATHOS IN HIS ATTEMPT TO TOTALLY POSSESS ME THE ENTIRE TIME I WAS THE GHOST RIDER.*

BUT EVEN THOUGH YOU MAY LOOK LIKE ZARATHOS, YOU DON'T ACT LIKE HIM.

*SEE THE CURRENT **GHOST RIDER RIDES AGAIN** SERIES.--BOBBIE

BUT YOU AND ***DAN*** SEEM TO BE GOING THROUGH THE SAME NUMBERS. ALL I CAN SAY IS, DON'T FIGHT AGAINST ONE ANOTHER OR YOU'LL BOTH GO INSANE. DON'T STRUGGLE FOR DOMINANCE OVER EACH OTHER--

THAT IS NOT WHAT IS HAPPENING.

I DO NOT WANT TO DOMINATE DANIEL. BUT SOMEHOW OUR PERSONAS ARE MERGING AND NEITHER OF US SEEMS ABLE TO STOP IT. I DON'T KNOW WHO OR WHAT I AM.

I CAN'T ALLOW MYSELF TO BE CHANGED OR TO CHANGE DANIEL.

WHY NOT?

WHY NOT TRY LETTING YOURSELVES MERGE? DAN COULD USE A LITTLE BIT OF A HARD EDGE. AND YOU CERTAINLY COULD USE A LITTLE HUMANITY.

PLUS YOU COULD LEARN TO USE ONE ANOTHER TO DO SOME GOOD. DAN TO DO THE THINKING, YOU FOR THE FIGHTING. GO FOR IT. WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO LOSE?

YOU'VE GOT TO LEARN TO TRUST ONE ANOTHER, OR YOU MIGHT AS WELL JUST GIVE IT UP NOW. BELIEVE ME-- YOU'LL BOTH LOSE IF YOU TRY AND FIGHT IT OUT.

HOW CAN I ALLOW MYSELF TO BECOME SOMEONE ELSE WHEN I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO I AM NOW?

I THINK I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH. ZARATHOS, THE GHOST RIDER I KNEW, SUFFERED FROM AMNESIA THROUGHOUT MOST OF OUR TIME TOGETHER.

AMNESIA THAT WAS CAUSED BY MEPHISTO. COULD MEPHISTO BE BEHIND YOU AS WELL?

NO.

SUDDENLY, A TRANSFORMATION THAT HAS OCCURRED MANY TIMES IN THE PAST MONTHS BEGINS.

THE HELLFIRE THAT COVERS THE BONES OF THE GHOST RIDER ARE REPLACED BY MUSCLE AND FLESH.

FINALLY, DAN KETCH STANDS WHERE THE GHOST RIDER WAS MOMENTS AGO.

YOU REMEMBER ANY OF THE CONVERSATION I JUST HAD WITH YOUR FLAMING COUNTERPART?

YEAH. SEEMS LIKE I'M REMEMBERING THINGS THAT HAPPEN TO HIM MORE AND MORE CLEARLY.

BUT I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR ANY OF YOUR PHILOSOPHICAL DISCUSSIONS--I'VE GOT TO FIND MY MOTHER--

--AND KILL HOBGOBLIN!

WELL, AT LEAST ONE OF MY SPIDER-TRACERS IS WORKING! THE ONE I PUT ON HOBGOBLIN* IS EITHER BROKEN OR ON THE BLINK!

I'M GLAD I DECIDED TO PUT ONE ON BLAZE-- JUST IN CASE!

AND AFTER MY BIG "I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP" SPEECH, IT TURNS OUT I DO.

OH, WELL, IT'S NOT THE FIRST TIME YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD WEB-SLINGER EATS HIS WORDS.

BUT THERE'S NO SIGN OF GHOST RIDER! WHO IS THAT KID? COULD HE BE...? MAYBE? NAW!

I'VE GOT TO FIND HOBGOBLIN SOMEHOW. I CAN'T LET THE KIDNAPPED WOMAN SUFFER THE SAME FATE AS THE OTHERS HOBGOBLIN HAS GOTTEN TO SINCE HE DISCOVERED RELIGION.

LOOKS LIKE BLAZE AND GHOST RIDER ARE MY ONLY LEADS, AND UNTIL I CAN THINK OF SOMETHING BETTER, ONE OR THE OTHER OF THEM DOESN'T LEAVE MY SIGHT.

*THIS HAPPENED IN **DARKHAWK** #3. --BOBBIE

"I CAN'T ALLOW GHOST RIDER TO GET TO HOBGOBLIN BEFORE I DO.

"I'M SURE HE'LL KILL HIM. AND WE CAN'T HAVE THAT NOW, CAN WE?"

YRAH

LOOKS LIKE THE CHASE IS ON!

KEVIN'S CHEESE

BIASI PIZZA

ELSEWHERE...

I MUST RE-INSPIRE *FAITH* IN THIS SPIRITUALLY DESOLATE WORLD.

I MUST GIVE EVERYONE SOMETHING TO BELIEVE IN--BELIEF IN *HIM*--AND THE PURIFICATION THAT HE WILL BRING ABOUT.

HE HAS PUT HIS MARK UPON ME AND I WILL REMOLD THIS WORLD IN MY OWN--AND HIS--IMAGE.

YOU DO BELIEVE THIS--YOU ARE ONE OF THE FAITHFUL--AREN'T YOU?

Y-YES.

A SHORT TIME LATER...

DAN K. BRANCH

BAR

BAR

KID, WAIT UP!

STOMP

I WANT TO KNOW WHERE HOBGOBLIN HAS MY MOTHER, CHARLEY!

HOLD IT, DAN. JUST WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

WHAH?

BEER

I'M *TAKING* CONTROL OF MY LIFE, BLAZE!

W-WHAT IS HE TALKIN'? KID'S CRAZY! I DON'T KNOW NOTHIN' ABOUT HIS MOTHER!

I AIN'T GOT ANY IDEA WHO YOUSE IS!

LET HIM GO, DAN!

BAR

NO!

CHARLIE IS THE BIGGEST INFORMATION SELLER IN BROOKLYN!

THE ***COPS*** BUY FROM HIM. THE ***CROOKS*** BUY FROM HIM. ***EVERYBODY*** BUYS FROM HIM!

AND YOU ***ARE*** GONNA TELL ME WHERE I CAN FIND HOBGOBLIN, CHARLEY--

--OR IT'LL BE ***YOU*** WHO BUYS IT!

YOU'RE ***CRAZY***, KID! EVEN IF I KNEW WHERE THE HOBGOBLIN WAS I AIN'T TELLIN' YOU NOTHIN'! I GOT ***FRIENDS***!

YEAH! HE'S GOT FRIENDS!

AND I'M *THREE* OF 'EM!

WHY DON'T WE ALL JUST CALM DOWN AND--

BACK OFF, KONG!

BOY, I'M GONNA RIP THAT PRETTY LITTLE HEAD OFF YOUR SHOULDERS AND SHOVE IT SO FAR UP YOUR--

I SAID LET'S ALL CALM DOWN AND TALK LIKE GENTLEMEN!

TOOEY!

NO WAY!

YOU AND THE MOUTH HERE ARE LEAVIN' IN PIECES! MAYBE WE'LL TALK LATER!

SO IF YOU'RE GONNA USE THAT LITTLE TOY OF YOURS-- GO AHEAD!

HE'S CALLING MY BLUFF!

ELSEWHERE...

IT HAS BEEN PREORDAINED THAT I SHOULD DO HIS WORK!

THE DEMON N'ASTIRH GAVE ME THE STRENGTH AND THE FORM THAT I POSSESS,* BUT IT WAS MY LORD'S HAND THAT GUIDED THE WORTHLESS DEMON.

THUS, ONE CAST FROM THE HEAVENS WAS AN INSTRUMENT IN THE WORLD'S SALVATION!

I HAVE TO GET AWAY FROM HERE. HE IS CRAZY!

ALL THE WORLD WILL THEN KNOW THAT I WAS HIS TOOL, HIS SERVANT, HIS LEFT HAND.

REVEREND STYGE WILL BE ABLE TO HELP ME--IF I CAN ONLY FIND HIM!

OHMILORD!

MURDER.

MURDERER!

KLANG

*SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #147. --BOBBIE

YOU DARE?

ONE UNDESERVING OF MY *WRATH!*

LORD, LET THE SCALES FALL FROM MY EYES! WILL YOU EVER ALLOW ME TO SEE A TRULY DEVOUT PERSON?!

WE'RE GOING DOWN AND I'M TAKING YOU WITH US!

THIS BOY IS ALL STYLE, BROTHERS!

WASTE 'EM BEFORE HE PUTS ME TO SLEEP WITH HIS THREATS!

I'LL SEE YOU IN H--

THWIP

AND YOU OF ALL PEOPLE DON'T WANT TO GO WHERE YOU WERE HEADED, BLAZE! I HEAR IT'S REAL HOT AND YOU CAN'T GET ANY #15 SUNBLOCK!

PEEK-A-BOO! LOOK WHO'S HERE!

HUH?

THANKS, WEB-FACE! I'LL KEEP THAT IN MIND THE *NEXT TIME* I'M ABOUT TO GET BLOWN AWAY!

NOW THAT THINGS ARE JUST ABOUT WRAPPED UP--

--I'M GETTING A REAL FLASH ON THE HOBGOBLIN'S LOCALE!

SEE YOU GUYS WHEN IT'S OVER! AND KEEP SKULL-FACE OUT OF MY WAY!

DAN! YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO LEARN SOME SELF-CONTROL. THERE IS A FINE LINE BETWEEN--

BIASI BEER

YEAH! YEAH! SAVE THE SPEECH FOR LATER, BLAZE!

I'M GOING TO FIND MY MOTHER!

SPIDER-SIGNAL IS COMING IN LOUD AND CLEAR NOW! SOMETHING MUST HAVE KICKED IT BACK INTO ACTION!

I JUST HOPE I'M NOT TOO LATE TO HELP THE POOR WOMAN!

THERE HE GOES! I WONDER IF DAN'S BLOOD LUST WILL TRANSFER TO GHOST RIDER?

GHOST RIDER?

WHAT? WAS HE FOLLOWING THEM, TOO?

DAN, WAIT! WE NEED A PLAN!

I'VE GOT A PLAN.

SAVE MY MOM--

--AND KILL HOBGOBLIN!

FWOOSH

HEADING FOR THE CHAPEL IN THE CEMETERY.

HOBGOBLIN WAS HERE ALL ALONG. MEANWHILE THE HOT-HEAD AND I SKIPPED AND PLAYED IN HIS BACKYARD.

I'VE GOT TO GET THERE BEFORE *GHOST RIDER* DOES. CAN'T LET HIM RISK THE WOMAN'S LIFE LIKE HE DID ADAM, THE CHILD HOBGOBLIN HAD KIDNAPPED WHEN GHOST RIDER AND I LAST MET!

RELEASE THE WOMAN, HOBGOBLIN!

YOUR PUNISHMENT IS LONG OVERDUE!

HEY, HOBBY, LOOKS LIKE I MIGHT BE YOUR BEST FRIEND RIGHT NOW. GIVE ME THE WOMAN, WHY DON'T YOU?

NEVER, SATAN-SPAWN! THE WOMAN IS *MINE* TO DO WITH AS *HE* PLEASES!

SAVE THE WOMAN, HERO!

HOBGOBLIN IS MINE!

COME ALONG, MRS. KETCH! LET'S FIND A RELATIVELY SAFE SPOT FOR YOU, SO I CAN COME BACK AND STOP A MURDER!

SINNERS!

YOU MUST ALL DIE!

YOU HAVE DEFILED THIS SANCTUARY!

IT MUST BE CLEANSED BY FIRE!

THE ONLY SHAME IS THAT YOUR SINFUL ASHES WILL CONTAMINATE THIS HALLOWED GROUND FOREVER.

BUT IT IS HIS WILL.

HOBGOBLIN IS TOTALLY OFF THE WALL! HE'S GOING TO BURN THIS PLACE DOWN AROUND OUR EARS!

YOU WILL DIE FIRST, DEVIL-SERVANT! YOUR PAIN WILL BE SEVERE!

WHY DO YOU WANT TO GO PICKING ON OLD GHOSTY, HOB? CAN'T YOU SEE HE'S JUST A BAG OF BONES?

OOOPH!

THANK YOU, SPIDER-MAN!

NOW STAND BACK AND LET THE HAND OF VENGEANCE FIND ITS DUE!

GHOST RIDER, *YOU'RE KILLING HIM!*

I WON'T -- I *CAN'T* LET YOU!

THOUGH HIS DEATH IS WELL-DESERVED--

--IT IS NOT WHAT I DESIRE!

BUT HE MUST SUFFER!

HE MUST FEEL THE PAIN THAT HE HAS INFLICTED ON ALL THOSE WHO HAVE SUFFERED BY HIS HANDS!

SPIDER-MAN!

YOU HAVE MY WORD THAT HE WILL NOT DIE BY MY HANDS.

NOW SAVE THE WOMAN BEFORE THE BUILDING COLLAPSES FROM THE FIRE HE HAS CREATED.

PLEASE.

YOU SAID THE MAGIC WORDS, BIKER!

NOW DON'T LET ME DOWN!

HANG ON, MA'AM. WE'RE--

--ALMOST--

FWOOM-KAK

--OUT!

HOBGOBLIN? GHOST RIDER?

I AM HERE, SPIDER-MAN!

IT LOOKS LIKE I MISJUDGED YOU, GHOST RIDER.

WELCOME TO THE CLUB, WEB-HEAD.

YOU REALLY DIDN'T WANT TO KILL HOBGOBLIN AFTER ALL. YOU JUST WANTED TO SAVE THE WOMAN.

I, OF ALL PEOPLE, SHOULD KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE MISJUDGED. BUT I GUESS THAT'S THE LOT WE DRAW AS SUPER HEROES. I GUESS IT'S FATE?

IT IS NOT FATE THAT HAS LEAD US TO BE WHAT WE ARE. NOR IS IT ENTIRELY CHOICE. BUT IT IS UP TO US TO HAVE FAITH THAT WHAT WE DO IS FOR THE GREATER GOOD. WE MUST BELIEVE IN OURSELVES.

BELIEVE IN YOUR DEATHS, HEROES!

THE THREE REACT AS ONE.

THE SAFETY OF MRS. KETCH IS THEIR ONLY CONSIDERATION.

HELLFIRE.

WEBBING.

MYSTICAL CHAIN.

THE ARCANE AND THE TECHNOLOGICAL.

ALL HIT HOBGOBLIN AT ONCE.

HE FALLS.

AS HOBGOBLIN LIES WRITHING IN THE AFTERMATH...

...A PAINFUL METAMORPHOSIS OCCURS.

THE MYSTICAL TRANSFORMATION CAUSED BY N'ASTIRH WAVERS.

REVEALING JASON PHILIP MACENDALE.

BUT HE IS QUICKLY AND PAINFULLY TRANSFORMED BACK TO THE HOBGOBLIN.

VENGEANCE HAS BEEN SERVED. HE HAS FELT THE PAIN.

I'VE GOT A FEELING THAT HOBGOBLIN'S PAIN IS JUST BEGINNING, GHOSTY!

BUT I'LL TAKE HIM FROM HERE.

NEXT ISSUE:
THE RETURN OF BARBARA KETCH?

MARVEL COMICS

TM

© 1991 MARVEL ENT. GROUP, INC.

$1.75 US
$2.25 CAN
18
OCT
UK 60p

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE
AUTHORITY

THE RESURRECTION OF BARBARA KETCH!

GHOST RIDER®

Nelson

WHEN INNOCENT BLOOD IS SPILLED, A SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE IS BORN, AND DANNY KETCH FINDS HIMSELF TRANSFORMED. STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

GHOST RIDER

CYPRESS HILLS CEMETERY...

JOHNNY BLAZE--FAMILY MAN AND THE WORLD'S BEST STUNT CYCLIST.

GHOST RIDER--SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE AND THE NETHERWORLD'S BEST STUNT CYCLIST.

IN THEIR OWN WAYS THEY ARE BOTH--

LOST SOULS!

HOWARD MACKIE
WRITER

TEX
ARTIST

JANICE CHIANG
LETTERER

GREGORY WRIGHT
COLORIST

BOBBIE CHASE
EDITOR

TOM DeFALCO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

THIS IS IT, GHOST RIDER. AFTER TONIGHT, YOU WON'T BE SEEING MY SMILING FACE AROUND HERE!

JUST REMEMBER, I'M GOING TO BE LOOKING IN ON YOU FROM TIME TO TIME, AND IF IT TURNS OUT THAT YOU ACTUALLY ARE--

YOU DON'T HAVE TO FINISH YOUR THREAT, BLAZE! I AM CONFIDENT THAT I AM NOT THE DEMON THAT ONCE POSSESSED YOU!

GOOD FOR YOU! JUST REMEMBER THAT I'VE GOT THE HARDWARE TO TAKE YOU DOWN IF YOU ARE--

--BUT AFTER ALL WE'VE BEEN THROUGH, I KIND OF HOPE THAT YOU'RE NOT.

I WILL FIND OUT WHO I AM AND THEN YOUR FEARS CAN BE PUT TO REST.

THANKS.

THANKS ARE NOT NECESSARY.

THE ANSWERS I SEEK ARE MORE FOR MYSELF--

--AND DANIEL!

I HOPE YOU AND GHOST RIDER BOTH FIND WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR, KID!

AND I HOPE YOU AREN'T DISAPPOINTED BY WHAT YOU FIND.

THANKS FOR ALL THE HELP, BLAZE. I THINK I'LL--

DON'T GO ALL SENTIMENTAL ON ME, DAN! WE'LL BE SEEING EACH OTHER AGAIN. SO TAKE CARE!

I'M SURE WE WILL.

VRRAAAAHHMM

I'VE GOT TO GET HOME AND GET SOME REST. THE PAST MONTHS HAVE BEEN TOTALLY CRAZY.

BLACKOUT ALMOST KILLED ME, *HOBGOBLIN* SHOWED UP AND KIDNAPPED MOM, THAT BROUGHT *SPIDER-MAN* ON THE SCENE, AND THE *ZODIAK* KILLER IS STILL ON THE LOOSE.

AND THIS *REVEREND STYGE* CHARACTER THAT MY MOTHER HAS FALLEN IN WITH...

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE WORLD TODAY?

WITH ALL THE DRUGS, SENSELESS VIOLENCE AND KILLINGS IS IT ANY WONDER THAT PEOPLE LIKE MY MOM ARE TURNING TO PHONY PREACHERS LIKE *STYGE* FOR COMFORT?

THERE'S SOMETHING NOT RIGHT ABOUT THAT ONE, AND I'M GOING TO FIND OUT WHAT IT IS!

IF HE'S PLANNING ON HARMING ANY INNOCENTS--

--I'M GOING TO TAKE HIM DOWN AND ALL THE OTHERS LIKE HIM...

WHAT AM I THINKING?

I'M REALLY GETTING INTO MY MOONLIGHTING AS THE *SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE!*

BUT I DON'T WANT TO GO TOO FAR! THE WHOLE POINT IS FOR ME TO BE THE CLEARHEADED ONE. THE RATIONAL ONE.

CAN'T LET *GHOST RIDER'S* FURY CARRY OVER TO ME. I'VE GOT TO HELP *GHOST RIDER* GET MORE ORGANIZED IN HIS PURSUIT OF THESE KILLERS.

WHUP

AND I'M SURE A PHONY PREACHER ISN'T GOING TO MAKE THE TOP OF THE PRIORITY LIST.

IN THE CELLAR OF A FARMHOUSE IN MILLBROOK, NEW YORK...

MASTER?

WHAT DO YOU HAVE FOR ME, STYGE?

NOTHING, N-NOT TODAY, B-BUT, MASTER, TOMORROW I...

TOMORROW MAY BE TOO LATE!

YOU HAVE FAILED ME, STYGE.

I HAVE GIVEN YOU POWERS FAR BEYOND ANYTHING OF WHICH YOU HAVE DREAMT.

BEFORE YOU MET ME YOU WERE NOTHING **BUT** A CRAZED EVANGELIST WITH A PENCHANT FOR THE FLESH. I'VE MADE YOU WHAT YOU ARE--AND I CAN *UNMAKE* YOU AS EASILY!

BRING ME THAT WHICH I DESIRE! I MUST HAVE THE POWER TO LEARN OF WHAT I WAS. WHAT I CAN BE AGAIN!

LEAVE ME! AND DO NOT RETURN UNLESS YOU ARE SUCCESSFUL, MY *SIN EATER!*

LATER, IN CYPRESS HILLS, BROOKLYN...

MOM, DINNER'S READY!

MOM?

MOM, DINNER'S READY...

BARB'S ROOM.

MOM... WE'VE GOT TO LET HER GO.

THERE IS NOTHING THAT WE OR ANYONE ELSE CAN DO TO BRING HER BACK! WE OWE IT TO HER MEMORY TO LET HER REST IN PEACE.

HOW CAN I LET HER GO, DANIEL? HOW CAN I LET GO OF MY BABY?

SHE IS PART OF ME JUST AS YOU ARE. IF THERE IS EVEN THE *SLIGHTEST* CHANCE THAT I CAN BRING HER BACK TO US--I'M GOING TO TAKE IT!

WOULDN'T YOU? I HAVE TO KEEP TRYING. IT'S EATING ME ALIVE. IT'S EATING OUT MY INSIDES, DANIEL! I CAN'T GO ON WITHOUT BARBARA.

BRRRRING

I'LL GET IT.

GOOD EVENING.

YOU! YOU'RE FROM STYGE! GET LOST AND LEAVE MY MOTHER ALONE--

I DON'T THINK SO!

WHOK

I'M SO SORRY, DANIEL, BUT THEY ARE GOING TO BRING BARBARA BACK TO US! REVEREND STYGE HAS PROMISED.

PLEASE STAY HERE, DON'T INTERFERE, AND WE--BARBARA AND I--WILL *BOTH* BE HOME LATER.

MOM!

THIS IS NOT GOING TO HAPPEN!

I'M NOT GOING TO LET SOME CON MAN RUIN MY MOTHER'S LIFE BY FEEDING ON HER FALSE HOPES!

I'M NOT GOING TO LET HER BE HURT AGAIN!

A FEW MINUTES LATER THE LIMOUSINE CARRYING MRS. KETCH TURNS INTO MOUNT HEBRON, THE OLDEST CEMETERY IN CYPRESS HILLS.

CEMETERY

DAN KETCH IS NOT FAR BEHIND.

WELCOME, MRS. KETCH!

I'M SO PLEASED YOU COULD JOIN US FOR OUR CEREMONIES.

AND HOW ARE YOU TONIGHT, MY DEAR?

R.I.P. STEVE BIAS!

OH, REVEREND, I *AM A SINNER!* AND I KNOW IF YOU WOULD JUST RELEASE ME OF MY SINS WE COULD BRING BACK MY BARBARA!

OF COURSE YOUR SINS WILL BE ABSORBED, MRS. KETCH! DO NOT WORRY!

BUT TONIGHT'S FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS IS WITH ANOTHER SOUL SEEKING TO BE UNITED WITH A LOST LOVED ONE.

MR. EDLEMAN, STEP FORWARD PLEASE.

YES, REVEREND.

ARE YOU A SINNER?

YES.

WILL YOU ALLOW ME TO *CONSUME* YOUR SINS BEFORE THEY CONSUME YOU?

YES, YES.

COME, SIR, LET US RELIEVE YOU OF YOUR PAST TRANSGRESSIONS AND REUNITE YOU WITH YOUR BELOVED IRIS--YOUR WIFE!

MMMMMMMMM

AIIIEE!

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THERE?

IT SOUNDS PAINFUL!

WE'D BETTER HELP THEM!

STAND BACK! THE REVEREND'S WORK IS NOT YET DONE!

WHAT IS GOING ON IN THERE? IT SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE DYING!

I CAN'T LET MY MOM GET TOO CLOSE TO THIS GUY.

AH! IT IS ALWAYS SO SATISFYING TO COMPLETE ONE OF THESE CEREMONIES!

NOW THEN...

MRS. KETCH.

SHALL WE?

OH, NO, NO, MY DEAR LADY! NOT IN THIS MAUSOLEUM!

WE MUST LEAVE MR. EDLEMAN WITH HIS LOVED ONES.

HE HAS BEEN REUNITED WITH THEM AND COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE DISTURBED!

NO. IT IS FAR BETTER THAT WE TRAVEL TO ANOTHER PART OF THE CEMETERY--

-- THERE YOU CAN BE UNITED WITH YOUR DAUGHTER.

LET US WALK TOGETHER. THE NIGHT AIR WILL DO US GOOD.

IT IS SAID THAT IT HELPS BUILD AN APPETITE!

AFTER THE CONGREGATION HAS DEPARTED...

MR. EDLEMAN ...?

SNIF

THAT SMELL... ALMOST LIKE...!

FWIP

;COUGH; GOT TO GET OUTSIDE FOR SOME FRESH AIR. THE STINK... AND THE FLOOR COVERED WITH SOMETHING SLIPPERY...

HUH?

THIS HANDKERCHIEF? IT'S THE ONE STYGE DROPPED!

WHAT'S ALL OVER IT?

BLOOD!

THE BIKE?

THE GLOW.

I AM TRANSFORMED!

NO!

VVRRRRRAWH

NOW, MRS. KETCH, PUT YOUR FEARS TO REST.

SOON I WILL ABSOLVE YOUR SINS AND YOU WILL BE REUNITED WITH YOUR DAUGHTER.

BUT THIS IS A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE. ONE THAT THE REST OF THE CONGREGATION MAY ONLY SHARE WITH YOU IN SPIRIT.

MY DEACONS ARE LEADING THEM IN MEDITATION ON YOUR BEHALF.

PLEASE KNEEL BEFORE YOUR DAUGHTER'S RESTING PLACE.

THINK OF YOUR SINS.

THINK OF YOUR DAUGHTER.

PREPARE TO GIVE YOUR SINS UP TO ME AND YOU WILL SOON BE WITH BARBARA.

I DO MISS HER SO MUCH!

OF COURSE YOU DO!

NOW TURN YOURSELF OVER TO ME!

LET YOUR SINS FLOW TO ME! SOON YOU WILL BE REUNITED WITH YOUR DAUGHTER--

--FOR ETERNITY!

TCHINK

NO!

THE BOND MUSTN'T BE BROKEN!

NO!

WHAT ARE YOU?

YES, STYGE. WHAT ARE YOU?

PLEASE DON'T HURT ME! I WAS ABOUT TO SUCCEED HERE!

YOU CAN HELP ME. WE CAN BOTH FEAST!

NO, STYGE! I AM NOT HERE TO HELP YOU!

I AM HERE TO GIVE A TASTE OF THE PAIN THAT YOU HAVE INFLICTED.

YOU! YOU ARE FROM THE MASTER!!!

HE IS DISPLEASED WITH ME--I KNEW IT!

THE PAIN OF THE INNOCENT.

THE INNOCENT?

YOU CANNOT BE FROM THE MASTER.

I WILL KILL YOU IN HIS NAME AND GNAW ON YOUR BONES!

SLASH

AS YOU DID WITH, MR. EDLEMAN?

YES, HE WAS A TASTY MORSEL--

--THOUGH A BIT STRINGY.

AND YOU? ARE THERE ANY BITS OF FLESH ON THOSE GLOWING BONES OF YOURS FOR ME?

AND WHAT MYSTICAL ENERGIES DO YOU HOLD? MY MASTER WILL BE SO PLEASED WITH ME WHEN I ABSORB THEM. THEY WOULD HAVE TO BE BETTER FOR HIM THAN THOSE OF THESE MORTALS!

YOU ARE A FLESH EATER, STYGE?!

A CANNIBAL? YES, INDEED! HAVE BEEN FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER!

FOR THE LONGEST TIME I HAD TO SUPPRESS MY CRAVINGS. I WAS JUST A SIMPLE COUNTRY PREACHER LIKE MY FATHER BEFORE ME.

BUT THE WORD I SPREAD WAS A HOLLOW ONE. I BELIEVED IN A DARKER GOD. A GOD WHO WOULD LET ME FILL MY STOMACH WITH THE FLESH I DESIRED.

THEN YEARS AGO I RAN INTO MY MASTER. TRULY AN EMISSARY FROM THE GOD I WORSHIPPED.

THE MASTER GAVE ME POWERS, AND NOW I PREACH HIS WORD AND DO HIS BIDDING!

NOW I TRULY KNOW WHO I AM! I AM A PREDATOR-- A FEEDER!

AND THE WORLD IS MY PREY!

HIS WORDS, THOUGH DERANGED, ARE FULL OF CONVICTION.

CAN THE SAME BE SAID FOR MY OWN WORDS?

SINCE MY REBIRTH I HAVE MOUTHED THE SAME WORDS OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

WITHOUT SELF-KNOWLEDGE HOW CAN MY WORDS HOLD ANY WEIGHT?

I WILL CONTINUE TO SEARCH FOR MY SOURCE. THEN MY MISSION WILL HAVE MEANING. BUT UNTIL THEN--

--I WILL FIGHT ON.

FIGHT ON FOR THE INNOCENT.

FIGHT ON FOR THOSE CRYING OUT FROM THE GRAVE FOR VENGEANCE.

PLEASE... NO MORE...

NO MORE PAIN...

NO, STYGE, NOT NEARLY ENOUGH.

YOUR ACTIONS DESERVE MUCH MORE. THEY DESERVE MY PENANCE STARE.

BUT YOUR SOUL BELONGS TO ANOTHER, AND MY PENANCE STARE WOULD DO LITTLE.

PHYSICAL PAIN MUST SUFFICE.

IF OUR PATHS EVER CROSS AGAIN, THE PAIN YOU FEEL NOW WILL SEEM A KINDNESS. AND WILL LAST FOR AN ETERNITY.

OH, WHAT HAVE I DONE?

YOU HAVE DONE NOTHING.

THE NEXT DAY...

THIS IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO, MOM.

BARB WOULD HAVE WANTED US TO GO ON WITH OUR LIVES.

OF COURSE YOU'RE RIGHT, DANIEL. BUT UNTIL NOW I WAS SO WRAPPED UP IN MY GRIEF THAT I COULDN'T SEE IT.

IT WASN'T UNTIL I SAW GHOST RIDER FIGHTING THAT AWFUL "REVEREND" STYGE THAT THE FOG LIFTED FROM MY BRAIN AND MY HEART.

I ALWAYS THOUGHT GHOST RIDER WAS EVIL BECAUSE OF THE WAY HE LOOKED. BUT THERE HE WAS FIGHTING STYGE, WHO LOOKED LIKE GOODNESS PERSONIFIED.

BETTY'S EGGS

THIS SIDE UP

EGGS

THAT MADE ME THINK OF YOUR SISTER. SHE NEVER JUDGED SOMEBODY BY THEIR APPEARANCES.

WHO KNOWS? MAYBE IF GHOST RIDER HAD BEEN AROUND ON THE NIGHT THAT YOUR SISTER WAS HURT HE COULD HAVE SAVED HER.

ANYWAY, NOW I REALIZE HOW SILLY I'VE BEEN TO TRY AND GET BARB BACK--BECAUSE IN ACTUALITY, DANIEL, I NEVER REALLY LOST HER.

SHE'LL ALWAYS BE WITH US IN OUR HEARTS.

EPILOGUE

CREAK

KATHUMP

HELP ME, MASTER! TH-THE PAIN!

PAIN? YOU DO NOT YET KNOW THE MEANING OF THE WORD, STYGE!

DO NOT LOOK AT ME! YOU DO NOT DESERVE THE PRIVILEGE!

BUT, MASTER, IT WASN'T MY FAULT! IT WAS--

I SAID--

--DO NOT LOOK AT ME!

AAAGH!

MY EYE!

N-NO MORE! P-PLEASE! IT WASN'T MY FAULT... IT WAS HIM... IT WAS THE GHOST RIDER... IT WAS...

THE GHOST RIDER?

YOU MAY LIVE AFTER ALL, REVEREND!

--YOU HAVE STIRRED A DISTANT MEMORY!

NEXT ISSUE:

MEPHISTO! ZODIAK!

AND THE CREATION OF A MOST UNUSUAL HERO!

MARVEL COMICS

M

$1.75 US
$2.25 CAN
29
APR
UK 85p

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE
AUTHORITY

THE PUNISHER
war journal

#18 AND ROT...!

WHEN MOBSTERS SLEW HIS FAMILY, FRANK CASTLE VOWED TO SPEND THE REST OF HIS LIFE AVENGING THEM! TRAINED AS A SOLDIER, AND EQUIPPED WITH A STATE-OF-THE-ART ARSENAL, HE NOW WAGES A ONE-MAN WAR ON CRIME! STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

THE PUNISHER war journal

pm:10:00

ZZP

CLK

KKM

CRASH AND BURN

WPP

THE LONG ISLAND EXPRESSWAY IS STILL JUMPING AT ONE A.M. BUT IT THINS OUT ENOUGH FOR ME TO CHECK OUT MY NEW RICEBURNER.

VRRRR

MIKE BARON -- WRITER
TEX -- ARTIST
JIM NOVAK --LETTERER
GREG WRIGHT -- COLORIST
DON DALEY -- EDITOR
TOM DeFALCO -- CHIEF

IN CONGESTED TRAFFIC AREAS, BIKES OFFER UNPRECEDENTED FLEXIBILITY--AND THIS IS THE QUICKEST BIKE EVER.

VVVVVVVVVVVVVVRRRRHHHHWWWWW

ALL WORK AND NO PLAY MAKES FRANK A DULL BOY.

HE MUST BE DOING 140 AT LEAST-- PROBABLY SOME KIND OF MODIFIED RACE BIKE. LET'S FIND OUT!

WHAT'S HE DOING?

FSSSH

P-THOOMMMM

$#!%¢ A HUMAN CANDLE!

SCREEE

GHOST RIDER?

I MAY BURN, BUT I NEVER CRASH.

FOLLOW ME.

HE CAME FROM THE ROARING ISLAND.

YEAH... I'VE HEARD OF IT-- A MONSTROUS MECHANICAL JUGGERNAUT COMPRISED OF DOZENS OF SMALLER VEHICLES... I THOUGHT IT WAS AN URBAN LEGEND...

NO LEGEND... AND WHEN I FIND THEM THEY SHALL KNOW MY VENGEANCE...

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THEM?

I DO NOT ANSWER TO YOU! I RIDE ALONE!

OKAY, OKAY-- DON'T SEIZE A PISTON. HERE'S WHAT I'VE LEARNED.

THERE'S A NEW DESIGNER DRUG CALLED SPIN-- MAKES CRACK FEEL LIKE A CUP OF COFFEE. IT'S MADE IN A MOBILE LAB CONCEALED IN A SEMI-- THE HEART OF THE ROARING ISLAND...

MEMBERS OF THEIR SO-CALLED TRIBE DELIVER SPIN AT ANY HOUR OF THE DAY OR NIGHT ON MOTOR-CYCLES: MOSTLY AT NIGHT.

AEROSTAR'S PLAYING THE COLISEUM TOMOR-ROW NIGHT. THEIR LEAD SINGER HOVEL-HAUS IS A NOTORIOUS JUNKIE-- HE'LL TRY ANYTHING 63 TIMES.

THE ONLY THING I DON'T GET-- WHAT ADVANTAGE DO THESE MOTORHEADS SEE IN CREATING THIS ROLLING CITY? YOU WANT IN ON THIS?

I RIDE ALONE...

YEAH... WHAT'S THAT COLOGNE YOU'RE WEARING?

DO NOT MOCK ME...

SOON...

WHAT ARE YOU DOIN' UP, FRANK? IT'S ONLY 3 P.M.

I'VE BEEN UP ALL NIGHT.

I'M TRYING TO GET A LINE ON THE ROARING ISLAND-- THEY'RE IN THE AREA.

STAND ASIDE--I'VE GOT A SIMULATION WORKED UP.

WHAT LITTLE INFORMATION WE HAVE IS SIX MONTHS OLD, A CHANCE SIGHTING IN SAN DIEGO. NOWADAYS, THE ISLAND HAS ELECTRONIC JAMMING AND LIGHT REFRACTION DEVICES WHICH MAKE RADIO SURVEILLANCE OR PHOTOGRAPHY IMPOSSIBLE...

THE GROUND LEVEL CONSISTS OF TWO SEMI'S HOOKED TOGETHER. THEY HAVE FORE AND AFT LEVELS COMPRISED OF BUSES, VANS AND SPORTS CARS, AND THE WHOLE THING CAN SHIMMY LIKE MY SISTER KATE.

LENS. HOOK.

THEY'VE BEEN DODGING THE BULLET FOR MONTHS--COPS CAN'T DRAW A BEAD ON 'EM 'CAUSE THEY CONTROL ALL ELINT* FUNCTIONS WITHIN A TEN MILE RADIUS.

WHAT ABOUT ENGINE EMISSIONS? COULD WE TRACK 'EM THAT WAY?

I DOUBT IT. THAT'S ONE CLEAN MACHINE.

*ELECTRONIC INTELLIGENCE.

HOWEVER, I'VE DEVELOPED AN ELECTRONICALLY-CHARGED VISOR WHICH SHOULD ENABLE YOU TO EYEBALL THE ISLAND WHEN YOU GET WITHIN A HALF MILE.

A HALF MILE. THAT'S CUTTING IT KIND OF THIN.

BEST I COULD DO. YOU SPRUNG THIS ON ME ON SHORT NOTICE.

YOU DID FINE, MICRO. I'M GONNA CRASH. WAKE ME AT EIGHT P.M.

WAKE YOURSELF--I'M OUTTA HERE!

4 P.M.

MEEP MEEP

CAN'T SLEEP...

BOING

6 P.M.

ZZZZZ

I'VE FALLEN AND I CAN'T GET UP...

8 P.M.

HUH?

WHAT'S THIS?

FRANK--
BETTER START TAKING THESE... TIME RELEASE ANTI-ACCELERANTS AND THORAZINE TO COUNTER-ACT SPIN.

LOVE, MA

CONTROLLED CHAOS BEST DESCRIBES THE SCENE AT THE LONG ISLAND COLISEUM AS TENS OF THOUSANDS OF AEROSTAR FANS CONVERGE FOR THE FINAL SHOW OF THEIR AMERICAN TOUR...

WHY DO I NEED THOSE PILLS? I'M NOT PLANNING TO TAKE ANY SPIN...

MILK

SELL BY MARCH 5

THERE'S SPECULATION AT EVERY AEROSTAR CONCERT WHETHER LEAD SINGER HOVELHAUS WILL APPEAR... HIS DRUG AND ALCOHOL PROBLEMS HAVE KEPT HIM ON THE FRONT PAGE OF SUPERMARKET TABLOIDS FOR MONTHS.

IF IT KEEPS ME FROM STRANGLING GHOST RIDER WHEN HE STARTS RANTING, IT'LL BE WORTH IT...

WELL, MOTHER KNOWS BEST. I'LL TAKE ONE.

HOLD IT. WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?

I'M HERE TO SEE HOVELHAUS. HE SENT FOR ME.

NICE TRY, PAL. BUT YOU GOT NO PASS. AM-SCRAY--YOU LOOK A LITTLE OLD FOR AEROSTAR ANYWAY.

IT WAS WORTH A TRY... I'LL HAVE TO WATCH FOR THE COURIER OUT HERE.

HEY!

SHARP LEATHERS, FANCY BIKE--THAT'S THE GUY. I'LL CATCH HIM ON THE WAY OUT-- FOLLOW HIM TO THE ISLAND.

GO ON-- HOVELHAUS IS WAITIN' FOR YA.

YEAH! THE GOOD HUMOR MAN! I WAS BEGINNING TO WORRY...

WE ALWAYS DELIVER.

ALL RIGHT! YOU WANNA DO SOME?

I NEVER TURN IT DOWN.

YEEE-HAW! ROCK AND ROLL!

YOU GONNA CATCH THE SHOW?

NO THANKS. I'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO THE ISLAND.

HERE HE COMES.

THAT RENT-A-COP'S STOPPING HIM...

HEY, YOU--LET'S SEE YOUR BACKSTAGE PASS.

BUZZ OFF, FINK. I'M HERE AT HOVELHAUS'S REQUEST.

I DON'T GIVE A $#!%! LET ME SEE YOUR PASS!

YOU WANT TO SEE MY PASS?!

HERE'S MY PASS, JERKWEED!

BLMM

EEEEEK!

BRRRP

I CAN'T SHOOT-- TOO MANY PEOPLE! HE'S GOING FOR HIS BIKE!

RRRROAR

PALMIOTTI PRINTING COMPANY

SCREEE

WHAT'S HE ON? HE'S NOT LOOKING WHERE HE'S GOING!

HE MUST HAVE SQUID SKIN TIRES!

THUMP

KURASIC

RRROAR

BOUNCING AROUND TOO MUCH TO SQUEEZE OFF A SHOT! I'LL HAVE TO GET CLOSER...

$#!%! I'VE GOT A TAIL!

POW

BRRRP

VRRRRRM

ARIANE'S

ANOTHER ONE! I'M A COOKED GOOSE...

BRAKA

TED

BLM BLM

BRRRP

CLOSER! WE GOT HIM NOW!

THWWP

GAAAHHH!

YOUR TRAIL OF DEATH ENDS HERE, MURDERERS...

HE'S ON THE ROOF-- DO SOMETHING!

I'M TRYIN'!

CRSHH

KAWOOMMM

SO SUFFER ALL WHO PREY ON INNOCENTS...

THANKS, GHOST RIDER! I DIDN'T THINK YOU CARED.

NOT FOR YOU, PUNISHER... I DID IT FOR THE INNOCENT MOTORISTS...

AWWOOOOOOO

I DON'T BELIEVE IT! THE COPS! THEY MUST HAVE BEEN SLEEPING UNDER THE HIGHWAY.

NO HARM MUST COME TO THEM.

POLICE

PC 18

THIS IS THE POLICE! PULL OVER AT ONCE!

$9#9! MY ELECTRICAL SYSTEM JUST CONKED OUT!

GOODBYE!

LAY DOWN ON YOUR STOMACH AND STRETCH YOUR ARMS OUT!

TANK TOOK A BULLET--

--BIKE'S COUGHING AND SPUTTERING--

HEY! I CAN'T LIE DOWN WITH THIS 9#$#9 HELMET ON!

TAKE THE HELMET OFF.

HEY! YOU COULD GIVE ME A RIDE!

BERT--ALL OUR ELECTRICALS JUST WENT OUT!

POLICE POLIC

HOLY $#!9! EVERY CAR ON THE ROAD JUST STOPPED! LOOK OUT!

POLICE

THEIR NINE MM SLUGS CAN'T PENETRATE MY COMPOSITE ARMOR...

SCREEEE

CRASHH

LOOK OUT!!

PHIL, I'LL CHECK OUT THAT DRIVER. YOU PUT THE CUFFS ON THE GHOST RIDER'S PAL.

YOU HEARD HIM. TURN AROUND.

I'M NOT THE PROBLEM. LISTEN...

HEAR IT? THAT TURBINE-LIKE WHINE COMING DOWN THE PIKE?

WHAT DO YOU THINK KNOCKED OUT EVERYONE'S ELECTRICS?

RRRR

WHAT IS IT?

THE ROARING ISLAND.

RRRRRRR

PUHOOM

SCRAK

SLUGGO'S

MARTINEZ CIGAR

BRANCH

POLICE

PT 14

BRAKA

CLK

BLM BLM BLMM

HAVE TO GET ROCKET LAUNCHER FROM BIKE...

BOOM

CONCUSSION GRENADE...

NEXT ISSUE:

CRACK-UP ON INTERSTATE 9

"Now Cracks A
Noble Heart."

Hamlet
Act V
Scene II

MARVEL COMICS

THE PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL™

$1.75 US
$2.25 CAN
30
MAY
UK85p

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE
AUTHORITY

WHEN MOBSTERS SLEW HIS FAMILY, FRANK CASTLE VOWED TO SPEND THE REST OF HIS LIFE AVENGING THEM! TRAINED AS A SOLDIER, AND EQUIPPED WITH A STATE-OF-THE-ART ARSENAL, HE NOW WAGES A ONE-MAN WAR ON CRIME! STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

THE PUNISHER war journal

AHH, THE SKULL-MAN'S AWAKE. WHAT'S YOUR NAME, SKULL-MAN?

I'M A GUEST. TAKE THESE SHACKLES OFF, THEN WE'LL TALK.

WE'LL TALK *NOW*. WHETHER YOU LIVE TO GET THOSE SHACKLES OFF WILL DEPEND ON WHAT I HEAR.

I'M STRAKER. WELCOME TO THE ROARING ISLAND. NOW--WHO ARE YOU?

CALL ME FRANK.

WHY WERE YOU CHASING MANION, FRANK?

SPIN CYCLE

MIKE BARON -- WRITER
TEX -- ARTIST
JIM NOVAK -- LETTERER
GREG WRIGHT -- COLORIST
DON DALEY -- EDITOR
TOM DeFALCO -- CHIEF

I DON'T LIKE BIKES THAT ARE FASTER THAN MINE.

RIGHT. LISTEN, I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, BUT YOU'D BE DEAD NOW IF YOU WEREN'T SO GOOD ON THAT BIKE OF YOURS. SO YOU GET ONE CHANCE TO JOIN US BEFORE WE DO KILL YOU. YOU READY?

DO I HAVE A CHOICE?

THERE'S ALWAYS A CHOICE.

HOW DO YOU KNOW I'M NOT A COP?

BELIEVE ME, FRANK, WE AIM TO MAKE SURE. HOLD HIM.

DON'T WORRY--WE MAKE OUR OWN SODIUM PENTATHOL...THERE ARE NO IMPURITIES AND THAT'S A BRAND NEW NEEDLE... GET THE WRIST BAND READY.

SOON...

NOW... WHO ARE YOU REALLY?

FRANK ROOK...

WHY WERE YOU CHASING OUR COURIER?

...KNEW HE WAS SOME KIND OF CARRIER...THOUGHT I COULD TAKE HIM DOWN.

...HEARD ABOUT THE ISLAND...THOUGHT HE'D HAVE MONEY OR DRUGS...

DO YOU USE DRUGS, FRANK?

SPEED, HEROIN...

ANY MAN WHO CAN HANDLE A BIKE LIKE YOU CAN BELONGS ON THE ISLAND...

YOU'RE IN. TODAY YOU'LL SEE THE OPERATION, MAYBE RUN A LITTLE ERRAND. WE'VE BEEN SHORT-HANDED SINCE BLAKE CRACKED UP WEDNESDAY NIGHT... THE GHOST RIDER GOT HIM.

...TONIGHT YOU HAVE TO PASS A LITTLE INITIATION TEST... STRICTLY A FORMALITY.

WHAT KIND OF TEST?

YOU SMOKE THE ROCK WHILE PULLING A TON ON YOUR BIKE... IT'S TO CHECK YOUR HAND/EYE COORDINATION.

WHAT IS IT? CRACK?

IT'S **SPIN** -- I INVENTED IT. IT'S MORE FUN THAN CRACK AND BETTER FOR YOU.

IN FACT, IT'S TIME FOR A LITTLE WAKE-ME-UP. JOIN ME?

WHY NOT?

GOOD OLD MICRO. HE FORCED ME TO TAKE THOSE TIME-RELEASE HOMEOSTASIS CAPSULES...

NO WAY TO FAKE IT--JUST HOPE MICRO'S ANTI-DOTE WORKS.

GOOD STUFF, EH, FRANK?

MY HEART...MUST CONCENTRATE ON SQUARE BREATHING TO GET IT UNDER CONTROL...

THE BEST!

COME UP HERE--LET ME SHOW YOU SOMETHING.

SOPHISTICATED TECHNOLOGY...

HEAD FOR BOSTON. TELL THE OUTRIDERS.

YOU GOT IT.

WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE. SEE THOSE RED BLIPS? ALL PARTS OF THE ISLAND. WE CRUISE INDEPENDENTLY, AND LINK UP AFTER DARK.

WHY LINK UP AT ALL? WHY CREATE THIS ROLLING JUGGERNAUT?

IT IS WRITTEN, FRANK...

THE SWIFT WILL INHERIT THE EARTH! SOCIETY'S BECOMING MORE WARLIKE WITH EACH PASSING YEAR. SOON, ONLY MOBILE VILLAGES SUCH AS OURS WILL BE ABLE TO SURVIVE, BY PICKING UP STAKES EN MASSE...

I DON'T EXPECT YOU TO UNDERSTAND THIS... IT TOOK ME YEARS TO FORMULATE MY THEORIES. DO YOU LISTEN TO JOHN CAGE?

NO.

I DIDN'T THINK SO. COME ON--I'LL SHOW YOU YOUR BIKE.

YOU SHOULD LISTEN TO CAGE. THEN YOU'D UNDERSTAND.

THIS ISN'T MY BIKE.

I DESIGNED IT MYSELF. THE ON-BOARD GYRO LETS YOU CORNER 20% FASTER THAN THE LATEST RACE BIKES.

WE'LL DROP YOU AT THE WEST SIDE HIGHWAY. YOU'RE TO DELIVER A PACKAGE TO LESTER LUTE AT THE RIGBY ARMS IN GREENWICH VILLAGE.

OF COURSE, IF YOU FAIL TO RETURN BY SUNDOWN, WE'LL BLOW YOUR ARM OFF, WHEREEVER YOU ARE, BY REMOTE. USUALLY KILLS YOU...ESPECIALLY IF YOU'RE AT SPEED...

MAY I HAVE MY HELMET BACK?

SURE.

GIVE HIM BACK HIS GEAR, BOYS.

WITH A GYRO AND A GAS TURBINE ENGINE, THIS BIKE IS LIGHT-YEARS AHEAD OF ANYTHING I'VE RIDDEN SO FAR.

I'M GONNA HATE MYSELF FOR THIS, BUT I NEED SOMEONE LIKE GHOST RIDER TO BEAT THAT THING.

HE'S BEEN SEEN IN QUEENS A LOT LATELY...

I CAN CRUISE IN AND OUT OF TRAFFIC AT 100 MPH--STEALTH HARDWARE MAKES ME INVISIBLE TO RADAR... I'LL BE IN MANHATTAN IN MINUTES...

WHOA! IT'S THAT $#!% THEY GAVE ME! MAKES ME WANT TO GO TOO FAST!

HEY, KID! YOU KNOW WHERE I CAN FIND THE GHOST RIDER?

NO. WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH HIM?

OKAY! OKAY... GOTTA KEEP IT UNDER SIXTY... THIS IS A COMMERCIAL AREA...

I'LL ASK THOSE COURIERS. THEY KNOW EVERY BIKER IN THE AREA.

PUT THE WORD OUT--THE PUNISHER'S LOOKING FOR HIM.

JUST WHAT I NEED... THE PUNISHER! I'D HOPED LAST NIGHT'S MEETING WAS A FLUKE...

THE GHOST RIDER WON'T HELP HIM... WHY SHOULD HE? FUNNY... PUNISHER SEEMED JITTERY... WIRED OR SOMETHING...

KOBASIC

BRANCH FLOWERS ETC.

PALMIOTI

LENSHOEK

MAYBE HE WON'T FIND THE GHOST RIDER... MAYBE IT WAS JUST A FREAK MEETING...

YEAH, SURE.

HEY, KETCH!

WHO'S YOUR PAL? I NEVER SAW A BIKE LIKE THAT.

I DON'T KNOW WHO HE WAS. HE WAS ASKING DIRECTIONS.

LOOKS LIKE "LESTER LUTE" LIVES IN A REAL DIVE...

LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THESE COCKROACHES!

EL SUPREMO

BLACK SABBATH

THE DONK

TINA "HEINZ"

TO LIVE AND DIE ON AVE. "A" FOUR WEEKS

HEY, MANNN...

HEY, MANNN... I REALLY LIKE YOUR *LEATHERS* ...MAYBE YOU OUGHT TO TAKE 'EM OFF...

MAYBE I OUGHT TO TAKE *YOU* OFF.

YOU JUST STEPPED IN IT, PAL. WE'RE GONNA TAKE OUR *TIME* WITH YOU...

I DON'T *HAVE* TIME FOR YOU!

SWACK

POOM

LOOK OUT!

DON'T WORRY, BUDDY...

THAM

KLINK

I'M AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY BUTT KICKER...

KRAK

AUCK!!

THOK

AWW... THOSE BOYS HAVE BEEN WAITING ALL MORNING FOR SOMETHING TO HAPPEN...

LESTER LUTE, I PRESUME?

THAT'S RIGHT-- AND YOU MUST BE MY FRIENDLY TRAVEL REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE ISLAND.

THAT'S ME, MR. LUTE.

THUNK

KLUD

AFTER YOU.

I WAS GOING TO SWEEP THE HALL BEFORE YOU GOT HERE.

HERE'S YOUR SPIN, MR. LUTE.

YEAH... LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE ALREADY DONE SOME. WHAT'S THAT ON YOUR WRIST?

IF THEY GET TIRED WAITING FOR ME, THEY BLOW MY ARM OFF.

ALL RIGHT, HOLD STILL, LET ME SEE THE $#9#% THING.

I CAN TAKE IT OFF, BUT THEY'LL KNOW IT.

HOW ARE YOU GOING TO HANDLE IT?

I'LL IMPROVISE.

I GOT AN IDEA...

THE ISLAND RELIES ON A NEW FORM OF TECHNOLOGY CALLED FUZZY LOGIC TO NEGOTIATE TRAFFIC AND LINK-UP...

LEAVE IT ON FOR NOW. I HAVE TO GET BACK TO THE ISLAND IF I'M GOING TO SINK 'EM. I HAVE AN INITIATION CEREMONY COMING UP.

I'VE CONCOCTED A LITTLE PROGRAM TO TAKE THE FIZZ OUT OF THEIR FUZZ... SLIP IT IN AND HANG ON TO YOUR PANTS...

THAT'S HARD TO DO... DOES THIS WINDOW OPEN?

YEAH, WHY?

IS THIS MUG IMPORTANT?

NO, I STOLE THAT FROM THE RITZ...

MICRO, STEALING MUGS?

SCRETCH

YOU WERE SAYING?

HERE'S THE PROGRAM. SLIP IT IN AND GET READY TO BOOGIE...

"...'CAUSE THIRTY SECONDS AFTERWARDS, ALL THE INTERLOCKING VEHICLES ARE GONNA START REJECTING EACH OTHER."

ONE MORE DELIVERY TO MAKE... THEN I HAVE TO FIND THE GHOST RIDER...

GOOD THING I CAUGHT A FEW HOURS' SLEEP AT MICRO'S PAD... SHOOK OFF THE EFFECTS OF THAT SPIN. WISH GHOST RIDER WOULD SHOW... NO, ON SECOND THOUGHT I SHOULD COUNT MY BLESSINGS...

WHAT'S THAT GLARE?

ENSHOEK

BEWARE, YOU WHO SEEK THE GHOST RIDER--YOU MAY FIND HIM!

GHOST RIDER! WE HAVE TO TALK!

I HAVE A PLAN, IF YOU'LL SHUT UP LONG ENOUGH TO...

QUIET! IT'S YOU WHO ARE A THREAT TO SOCIETY! IT'S YOU WHO DELIVER DRUGS TO INNOCENT CITIZENS!

"INNOCENT CITIZENS?!" HEY, LOOK, THIS IS PART OF MY COVER. I DON'T LIKE IT, BUT THERE'S BIGGER FISH TO DEAL WITH HERE THAN A FEW JUNKIES!

YOU JUDGE SO RASHLY... I'LL SHOW YOU THE FOLLY OF YOUR WAYS!

GET OUT OF MY FACE! THAT PENANCE STARE WON'T WORK WITH ME, GR...

MY *STARE* IS NOT WHAT YOU NEED.

LOOK INTO YOUR *OWN* SOUL.

YOU'RE RIGHT--I'LL GO TO CONFES-SION TOMORROW! I SWEAR!

YOU TRY TO HIDE YOUR FEAR... YOU ARE NOT INNOCENT... BUT PERHAPS YOU PREY ONLY ON THE GUILTY. MY MISSION IS MY OWN. BUT I WILL LISTEN TO YOUR PLAN...

THE FREEWAY--A SLEEK SPORTS COUPE TAIL-GATES AN EIGHTEEN-WHEELER...

BULKHEADS BUCKLE, BUMPERS BLEND INTO THE FRAME--STRANGE SOCKETS MATE WITH FLEXIBLE SPROCKETS.

AS THE SPORTS CAR LINKS UP, OTHER FLANGES UNFOLD LIKE THE LIMBS OF SOME TROPICAL INSECT.

THEY CONVERGE LIKE HORNETS ON A HIVE, BLENDING INTO THE WHOLE...

...UNTIL AT LAST--THE JUGGERNAUT IS FORMED!

NOW WE'RE ROLLING! WHERE'S MY NEW RIDER FRANK?

THE TAIL JUST PICKED HIM UP. HE'LL BE UP HERE IN A MINUTE.

FRANK! YOU DID GOOD! ALL OUR CUSTOMERS ARE VERY SATISFIED! ARE YOU READY FOR YOUR INITIATION RUN?

OF COURSE. DID YOU THINK I'D WANT TO QUIT *NOW?*

HA HA! YOU CAN'T LEAVE NOW--YOU'VE SEEN TOO MUCH. HERE'S YOUR HELMET-- IT LIGHTS UP AUTOMATICALLY WHEN YOU HIT 100 MPH...

TELL ME WHAT I HAVE TO DO.

THESE GUYS ARE SO CRANKED THEY DON'T SEE WHAT I'M DOING...

IT'S SIMPLE. WE SUPPLY YOU WITH THE BIKE, THE HELMET, THE ROUTE--YOU CRUISE AROUND THE ISLAND IN A BIG FIGURE EIGHT, SMOKE SOME SPIN, BRING HER BACK ON BOARD...

IF YOU CAN'T HANDLE IT, WE'LL KNOW YOU'RE NOT ISLAND MATERIAL...

...I HOPE YOU MAKE IT, FRANK. YOU SEEM LIKE A NATURAL ROAD WARRIOR. I'D HATE TO SEE YOU CRASH AND BURN...

NOT TO MENTION YOUR BIKE, RIGHT?

GOTTA GET READY TO ROLL... IT'S GONNA BREAK UP ANY SECOND...

NOT TO WORRY. WE'RE WILLING TO CHANCE IT.

%$#*! THIS HELMET'S GOT THE SAME SORT OF BUCKLE AS THE WRIST BAND! THAT COMPUTER'S STILL FUNCTIONING NORMALLY! MICRO'S DISC DIDN'T WORK!

GO! WE'RE WATCHING--WE'LL PICK YOU UP IN FIFTEEN MINUTES --IF YOU MAKE IT!

THIS #95#90 CYCLE'S GOT A MIND OF ITS OWN... IT'S ACCELERATING AUTOMATICALLY!

MUST FOLLOW THE PATTERN EXACTLY... MY TIMING'S GOT TO BE PERFECT...

THERE'S THE BRIDGE... THE PIPE'S STARTING TO GLOW WITH A KILLER JOLT OF SPIN...

THE ISLAND...

LOOK! DOWN ON THE HIGHWAY! IT'S THE *GHOST RIDER!* FRANK IS THE *GHOST RIDER!* *BLOW HIS ARM OFF! BLOW HIS $%@9#$$ HEAD OFF!*

YOU GOT IT-- HEY-- WHO TURNED OFF THE WEAPONS COMPUTER?

BOOM

THANKS, MICRO. THAT'S CUTTING IT KIND OF THIN.

GOT YOUR BIKE STASHED OVER HERE.

I STUCK YOUR #9$#$ DISC IN THE SLOT AND NOTHING HAPPENED! I THINK I PUT IT IN A DEAD MACHINE...

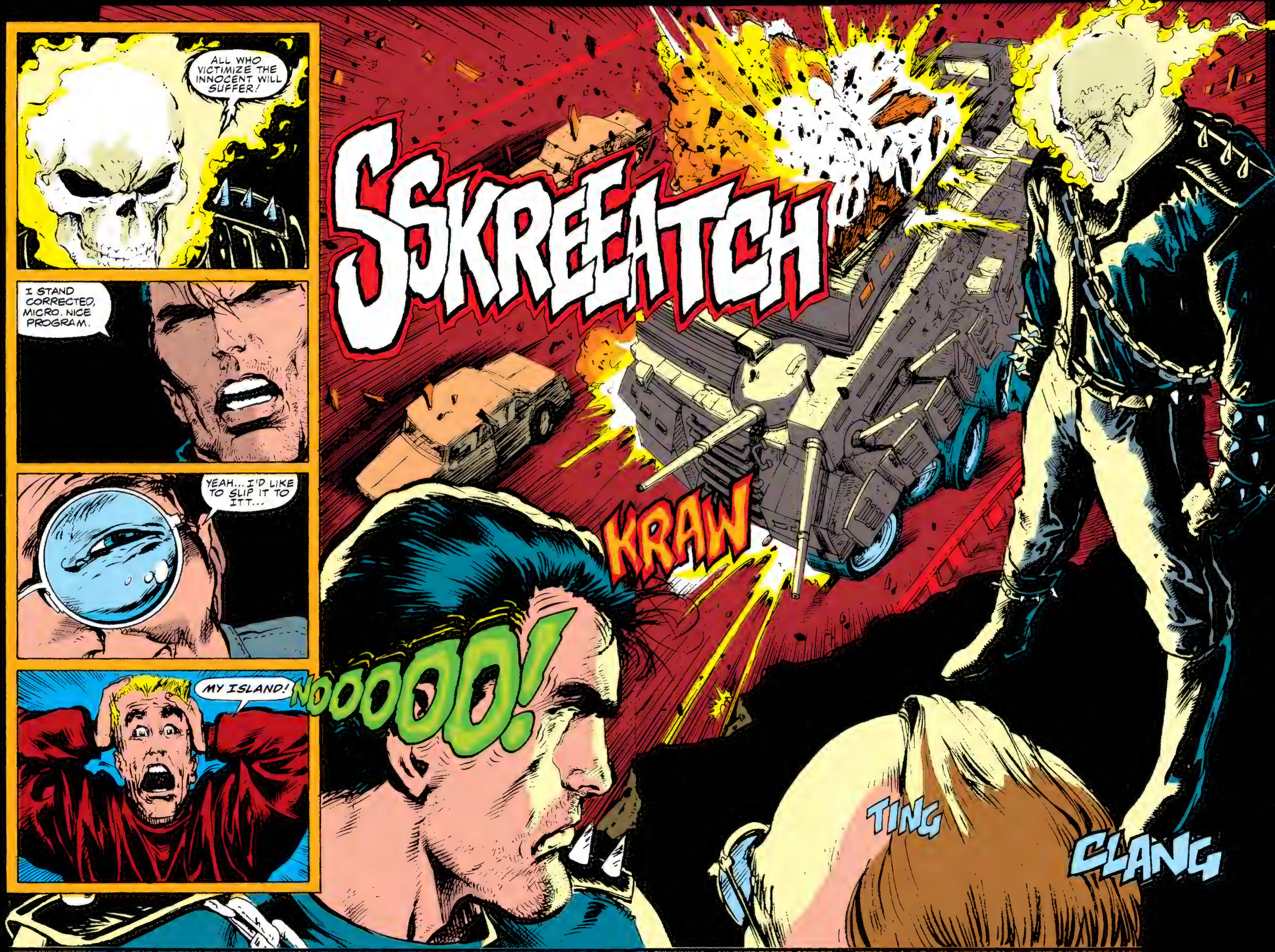
YOU'VE GOT TO PRESS ENTER. LOOK, THE GHOST RIDER'S CIRCLING BACK TOWARD THE ISLAND...

HE'S COMING THIS WAY! USE THE ROCKET LAUNCHER!

CHOOM

YOU WHO PREY ON THE WEAKNESSES OF OTHERS... YOU WILL NOW KNOW HOW IT FEELS TO BE THE PREY...

STRAKER! SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH THE COUPLING SYSTEM!


ALL WHO VICTIMIZE THE INNOCENT WILL SUFFER!
I STAND CORRECTED, MICRO. NICE PROGRAM.
YEAH... I'D LIKE TO SLIP IT TO ITT...
MY ISLAND!
SSKREEATCH
KRAW
NOOOOOO!
TING
CLANG

THOOM

NOOO! MY BEAUTIFUL ISLAND IS SINKING...

I'LL REBUILD... I'LL CONSTRUCT A FLEET OF JUGGERNAUTS! IF IT TAKES MY WHOLE LIFE, I'LL CRUSH THAT ROOK UNDER MY WHEELS...

LENSHOEK

TINK

VVVRAWW

PUNISHER! THOUGH YOUR METHODS ARE HARSH, YOU DO PUNISH THE GUILTY! WE PART NEITHER FRIENDS NOR ENEMIES THIS TIME! BUT I'LL BE WATCHING YOU!

SAME TO YOU, FREAK.

I HEAR SIRENS-- LET'S GET OFF THE INTERSTATE.

SUCK YOUR GUT IN, MICRO, WILLYA? I'M GETTING MASHED AGAINST THE TANK.

The biggest problem with listening devices is the need to actually go into a place and cunningly position them.

For those times when getting in is only a big problem, but the place has its own set of bug-detectors, I use this fiber optic connected listening device. It's 'on' all the time, self-contained with a microphone, light-pulse encoder chip and it's very flat. The fiber optic cable emits nothing to detect. The only drawback is that the cable is fragile, but I use a thick version and the cable generally holds up long enough.

The one thing I hate is having to solder fresh batteries into place prior to a big job. Flux is messy, smelly stuff.

It's often easier to let someone bring a bug in for you. That Kleenex box is about to receive a very flat bug right between the cardboard end-flaps. I use the surgical 'ear polypus' gadget to position it so it doesn't fall out.

The BIC pen, 'Accountant Fine Point', always used by these guys' bookkeepers. And I keep track of some fancy lighting stores' designer lamp orders. The expensive rubber and halogen lamps look great and are practically one-piece, so no one thinks they come apart. But they do, and have plenty of hiding places for bugs.

Most people don't know that their answering machines can be used to listen to ambient noise without being activated by the ringing signal. But 'Chip does, and he wrote a tidy little monograph on the current performers. Whenever I have trouble sleeping. . .

Finally, when you can't get into a place at all, which is happening more often these days with new security technology, I have this latest little radio-controlled marvel from 'Chip. This thing is only 3/8" high and can fit under doors. It has a new CCD (Charged Coupled Device) TV camera from the 'Handycam' era that allows you to steer through the house at night (built-in infrared light source) and park under a sofa. Pretty cool, huh?

eliot r. brown

arsenal page

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #90-97

WRITER: **HOWARD MACKIE** • PENCILER: **GUANG YAP** • INKER: **BUD LAROSA**
COLORIST: **FREDDY MENDEZ** • LETTERER: **JANICE CHIANG**
ASSISTANT EDITOR: **MARK POWERS** • EDITOR: **TERRY KAVANAGH**

IN ONE OF THE MANY TUNNELS THAT LIE BENEATH MANHATTAN...

"OUT FOR A MIDNIGHT STROLL.

"MASQUE HAS THE MORLOCKS ALL STIRRED UP LATELY.

"BEST TO KEEP AN EYE ON THEM.

"THE REST OF THE TEAM IS ALL SNUG IN THEIR BEDS. GOOD FOR THEM, THEY NEED TO GROW BIG AND STRONG.

SERVANTS OF THE DEAD

PART 1 OF 8:

THE NEW WARRIORS

"ME, I'VE DONE ALL THE GROWING THAT I'M GOING TO DO--AND THEN SOME!

"UP AHEAD!

featuring

GHOST RIDER AND CABLE

"A MORLOCK PATROL.

"NOT THE TIME OR THE PLACE FOR A FIREFIGHT.

krak

THERE! IT'SSSSS CABLE!

"LOOKS LIKE I HAVE NO CHOICE.

RUMBLE

"CAVE WALL GIVING WAY.

"MIGHT AS WELL TRY HOLDING ONTO TALCUM POWDER.

"THIS IS WHAT I GET FOR TRYING TO AVOID A FIGHT."

CYPRESS HILLS CEMETERY, BROOKLYN...

DANKETCH IS ALONE WITH HIS THOUGHTS ON A STARRY NIGHT.

ALONE WITH HIS THOUGHTS--

--AND HIS SISTER.

BARBARA KETCH

YOU'VE GOT THE MOST QUIET AND PEACEFUL SEAT IN THE CITY, BARB.

SOMEHOW IT SEEMS APPROPRIATE THAT THIS IS THE PLACE THAT I COME TO RELAX.

THIS IS WHERE IT ALL BEGAN.

MY BECOMING GHOST RIDER STARTED BECAUSE OF YOU, BARB.

AND NOW THAT I'VE FINALLY ACCEPTED WHAT I'VE BECOME, AND WHAT GHOST RIDER DOES, I REALIZE THAT--

--I'M DOING IT FOR YOU, BARB.

MEANWHILE...

LUCKY I LANDED IN THIS UNDERGROUND STREAM.

LUCKY? I'VE BEEN WALKING UPSTREAM FOR THE PAST HOUR.

IF MY BEARINGS ARE STILL STRAIGHT, I'M SOMEWHERE UNDER EITHER BROOKLYN OR QUEENS RIGHT ABOUT NOW.

DRY LAND AT LAST...AND NOT A SHORT-CIRCUITED BIONIC PART FOR THE EFFORT.

THIS TUNNEL SEEMS LIKE MY BEST HOPE FOR SOMETHING A LITTLE DIFFERENT.

NICE BIG CAVERN TO STRETCH OUT IN FOR A WHILE AND--

SOMEONE'S COMING! MORLOCKS?

THEY COULDN'T POSSIBLY HAVE FOLLOWED ME THROUGH THAT STREAM.

WHOEVER IT IS, IS RUNNING SCARED.

HOLD IT RIGHT HERE! KEEP YOUR HANDS WHERE I CAN SEE THEM--

NO!

YOU WON'T HAVE ME.

I WON'T DO IT!

I'LL SEE YOU ALL DEAD FIRST!

NICE KNIFE.

YOU ARE NOT ONE OF THEM, WHO ARE YOU?

NEVER MIND. WE HAVE TO GET AWAY... THEY ARE ALMOST UPON US.

COME QUICKLY! WE MUST RUN!

FROM WHO? THE MORLOCKS?

NO! THEM!

THE GRATEFUL UNDEAD!

THEY ARE HERE. THEY WANT ME! RUN! SAVE YOURSELF!

I'M TIRED OF RUNNING TODAY!

BM

FEEL LIKE LETTING OFF SOME STEAM!

tink tink tink tink tink tink

BTAK BTAK

BTAK

YOU WANT TO TELL ME WHO I JUST SHOT?

THEY ARE NOT KILLED SO EASILY.

THEY *ARE* DEATH!

WE MUST RUN. MORE WILL FOLLOW.

FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER...

NO.

I GOT LOST. I SHOULD NOT HAVE BROUGHT US TO THIS PLACE.

WHY NOT? WHAT IS THIS PLACE? ARE THOSE COFFINS?

YES. BUT IT IS BETTER THAT YOU NOT LEARN TOO MUCH. LET US JUST TURN BACK BEFORE--

A GUARDIAN!

KRAK

OOPH!

HIS STRENGTH...

...DOESN'T SEEM TO...

...MATCH HIS SIZE!

SHRAK

YOU HAVE KILLED A GUARDIAN IN A MOST SACRED PLACE.

NOW BOTH OF OUR DEATHS ARE ASSURED.

THEN IT'S TIME TO LEAVE. AND SINCE I CAN'T FIND AN EXIT...

...IT'S TIME TO CREATE ONE OF OUR OWN.

BTAK BTAK BTAK BTAK

WHAT THE--?

AN EARTHQUAKE? IN BROOKLYN?

THE GAS CAP IS GLOWING! THAT ONLY HAPPENS WHEN--

BOOM

HELP US! PLEASE HELP!

DAN KETCH PLACES HIS HAND ON THE GLOWING MEDALLION AS HE HAS MANY TIMES BEFORE.

FLESH APPEARS TO BOIL AND MELT.

HIS BODY IS BATHED IN MYSTICAL FLAMES.

UNTIL, WHEN THE TRANSFORMATION IS COMPLETE, ALL THAT REMAINS IS--

--GHOST RIDER!

THE BLOOD OF THE INNOCENT HAS BEEN SPILLED ONCE MORE.

USING HIS MYSTICAL CHAIN AND MOTORCYCLE, GHOST RIDER BORES THROUGH THE EARTH BENEATH THE CEMETERY.

THE GIRL'S DEATH WILL BE AVENGED!

SHE ISN'T DEAD YET! SO CUT ME DOWN!

WHY?

BECAUSE WE ARE ABOUT TO HAVE COMPANY--

--AND I'M PRETTY GOOD IN A FIGHT.

CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE: INTO THE BOWELS OF THE EARTH

MARVEL®
COMICS
TM

© 1991 MARVEL ENT. GROUP, INC.

$1.25 US
$1.50 CAN / UK 70p
91
CC 02214
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS™

GHOST RIDER™

AND CABLE™

KITH

SERVANTS OF THE DEAD

PART 2 OF 8

CHASE IN THE DARK

GIVE ME A MINUTE AND I'LL HAVE THIS THING OFF, BUT--

--I DON'T THINK *THEY'LL* WAIT!

ENOUGH TALK.

GHOST RIDER AND CABLE

FINE BY ME. JUST DO SOMETHING BEFORE THOSE WEIRDOS GET AWAY WITH *HER*!

tchink

SHRAK

THANKS.

THESE ARE THE ONES THAT *HURT* THE GIRL?

YEAH. THEY TOOK HER FROM ME--

--AND IT LOOKS LIKE THEY *DON'T* LIKE WHAT I DID TO THEIR PALS.

THEIR EFFORTS WILL PROVE FUTILE.

YEAH... RIGHT.

WAIT. THEY'RE WITHDRAWING. WHAT HAVE THEY GOT UP THEIR--

SPLOOSH

SPLOOSH

BLOOD.

HERS.

THEY'VE MARKED US.

OR WARNED US OFF. EITHER WAY IT DOESN'T MATTER--

-- THEY'RE NOT GIVING UP THE GIRL!

WHERE ARE YOU HEADING?

THEY HAVE SPILLED THE GIRL'S BLOOD.

SHE MUST BE *AVENGED.*

WAIT. SHE MAY *NOT* BE DEAD YET.

I'M COMING WITH YOU.

NO.

YES.

WHO ARE YOU DOING THIS FOR, *GHOST RIDER?*

THE GIRL OR YOURSELF? I'VE READ ABOUT YOU IN THE PAPERS. WHAT'S YOUR DEAL?

NEITHER OF US KNOWS HER. SHE'S NOTHING TO US.

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.

BY THE WAY, THE NAME'S CABLE.

NO!

GO BACK! SAVE YOURSELVES! YOU CAN'T SAVE ME! I'M ALREADY--

AACK

THIS CAVERN IS ENORMOUS!

BEST BET IS TO SET UP A GRID PATTERN AND SEARCH FOR THEM SYSTEMATICALLY.

BEHIND THOSE ROCKS.

OTHERWISE, WE'LL NEVER FIND--

AND ON TOP OF THEM ALL!

SURRENDER!

YOU HAVE WITNESSED THAT WHICH NO SURFACE DWELLER HAS *EVER* SEEN.

YOUR *DEATHS* WILL BE *QUICK!*

THANKS...

...BUT I WAS KIND OF COUNTING ON A *SLOW* AND *LINGERING* ONE!

FTHOOM

toom toom

EITHER WISH CAN BE ACCOMMODATED.

SHRAK

tchink

RELEASE THE FEMALE!

WHOOSH

THE PAIN THAT YOU HAVE INFLICTED ON HER SHALL BE *REPAID--*

--TENFOLD!

NOOOOOOOO

THE GIRL... THEY ARE DRAGGING HER OFF AGAIN.

YEAH. AND THAT ISN'T OUR *ONLY* PROBLEM.

UP AT TEN O'CLOCK...

THEY'RE PULLING OUT THE HEAVY ARTILLERY. TIME TO TAKE EVASIVE MANEUVERS.

HOLD ON.

KH-KOOM

EXACTLY WHAT I HAD IN MIND.

TOOM TOOM

KBOOM

KBOOM

GET US OUT OF HERE! THEY TOOK HER OVER THAT BRIDGE!

THEY WILL NOT ESCAPE MY WRATH.

THE GIRL WILL BE SAVED.

THE BRIDGE...

...IT WAS A *TRAP!*

KRNCH

YES. ONE THAT WILL LEAD TO YOUR DEATHS AT THE VERY *CENTER OF THE EARTH!*

CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE...

MARVEL COMICS

© 1991 MARVEL ENT. GROUP, INC.

TM

$1.25 US
$1.50 CAN/UK 70p

92

CC 02214

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS™

GHOST RIDER®

AND

CABLE™

FALLING.

INTO THE DARKNESS.

INTO A VOID.

GIVING IN TO THE INEVITABLE WOULD BE EASY.

LET GO OF LIFE.

SLIP FURTHER INTO THE DARKNESS.

BUT THE TWO INDIVIDUALS FALLING INTO THE ABYSS HAVE CHOSEN TO AVOID THE EASY PATHS.

THEY ARE FIGHTERS.

TCHMK

HOLDING ON TO THEIR OWN LIVES--

--SO THAT OTHERS CAN BE SAVED.

THEY ARE--

THE SERVANTS OF THE DEAD PART 3

IN THE CATHEDRAL OF THE DEAD

GHOST RIDER AND CABLE

PITY THOSE WHO HAVE ATTEMPTED TO KILL THEM AND HAVE FAILED.

WORDS ARE NOT EXCHANGED.

CABLE KNOWS THAT, IN THIS PARTICULAR INSTANCE, GHOST RIDER IS IN CHARGE.

HE'S COME TO APPRECIATE THAT WHICH THE SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE AND MYSTICAL MOTORCYCLE CAN ACCOMPLISH.

CABLE IS WILLING TO HANG ON AND GO FOR THE RIDE.

WHEREVER IT MIGHT LEAD.

NICE LANDING.

THESE GUYS FRIENDS OF YOURS?

WE LIVED THROUGH THE FALL.

THE GUYS CALLING THEMSELVES THE GRATEFUL UNDEAD WILL COME AFTER US.

I HAVE A FEELING THIS IS ANOTHER PLACE THEY DON'T WANT US TO SEE.

YES.

TCHINK

I SENSE--

--WE ARE NOT ALONE.

YEAH. I FEEL IT, TOO.

AND IT DOESN'T FEEL TOO GOOD.

THERE.

AND HERE.

PTOOM PTOOM PTOOM

IT'S ALL AROUND US. WHATEVER IT IS, ITS SPOOKING ME.

NOT BECAUSE OF THE SKULLS AND BONES, BUT BECAUSE OF THE FAILURE IT REPRESENTS.

IF I DON'T DO MY JOB RIGHT, THE KIDS WORKING WITH ME COULD WIND UP HERE AMONGST YORICK AND FAMILY.

HOW ABOUT YOU? I HEAR THAT YOU CLAIM TO BE THE SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE. DOES THAT MEAN YOU SERVE THE DEAD? THEY'RE THE ONES THAT NEED THE MOST AVENGING.

BLASPHEMY!

YOU DARE CLAIM TO BE A SERVANT OF THE DEAD.

THIS PLACE IS THE CATHEDRAL OF THE DEAD. NONE BUT THE CHOSEN MAY VIEW IT AND LIVE.

YOU ARE NOT THE CHOSEN...

...THEREFORE--

--YOU DIE.

ONCE AGAIN THE TWO HEROES ARE ENGAGED IN BATTLE.

BOTH ARE VETERANS OF MANY.

AND HAVE LEARNED TO DEAL WITH THEIR OPPONENTS--

--QUICKLY--

--AND EFFECTIVELY.

THE BATTLE IS BRIEF.

ENOUGH.

ONCE AGAIN I WAS MERCIFUL WHEN I SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN.

DEATH AT THE HANDS OF MY ACOLYTES WOULD HAVE BEEN SWIFT.

THE OPTION IS NOW LOST.

PHREEEEEEE

ALL THE BONES ARE MOVING.

CAN'T GET A FIX ON THE DIRECTION OF THE ATTACK.

NOW YOU ARE FOOD FOR THE GOD.

TO BE CONTINUED...

MARVEL COMICS

© 1991 MARVEL ENT GROUP INC

$1.25 US
$1.50 CAN/UK 70p
93
CC 02214
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS™

GHOST RIDER®

AND

CABLE™

No

THE GRATEFUL UNDEAD

PART 4

NOTHING TO FEAR...

GHOST RIDER AND CABLE

THE SURFACE DWELLERS HAVE BEEN DEALT WITH--

--NOW LET THE TRAITOR JOIN THEM AS FOOD TO THE GOD!

NO!

FEAR.

CRUSHING, OVERWHELMING FEAR.

FROM AN EARLY AGE SHE HAS BEEN RAISED ON THIS FEAR.

FEAR OF THE GOD THAT DWELLS BENEATH THE CATHEDRAL OF THE DEAD.

NOW HER WORST CHILDHOOD NIGHTMARE HAS BECOME A REALITY.

PULLED BELOW THE BONES THAT ARE SCATTERED IN THE CATHERAL OF THE DEAD--

--INTO A PRIMORDIAL OOZE SURROUNDING... WHAT?

A GOD OF FEAR?

CABLE.

LEADER OF THE MUTANT TEAM KNOWN AS X-FORCE.

HE ALLOWS HIS FEAR TO PASS THROUGH HIM.

GHOST RIDER.

SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE.

HE HAS YET TO ENCOUNTER ANYTHING TO CAUSE FEAR.

NEITHER HAS TIME FOR THE FEAR.

THERE IS A LIFE, OTHER THAN THEIR OWN, AT STAKE.

THE BEAST IS STRONG.

RUN OUT OF FIGHT.

GIVEN IN TO THE DARK AND THE FEAR.

OTHER PREY HAVE RUN OUT OF OXYGEN.

GIVEN IN AND HAD THE FLESH STRIPPED FROM THEIR BONES.

THIS TIME--

PTOOM PTOOM PTOOM

--THE CREATURE IS IN FOR A SURPRISE.

TCHMK

ONE THING GHOST RIDER AND CABLE HAVE NEVER DONE--

--IS RUN OUT OF FIGHT.

WITH THE LIFE OF AN INNOCENT GIRL AT STAKE--

--THESE TWO VERY DIFFERENT HEROES DISCOVER THAT THEY HAVE MUCH IN COMMON.

UNABLE TO SPEAK TO ONE ANOTHER--

--THEY KNOW WHAT MUST BE DONE.

ATTACK.

KEEP ATTACKING.

BRING THE FEAR TO THE OPPONENT.

THIS THEY DO AS ONLY THEY CAN.

THE GOD THAT DWELLS BENEATH THE CATHEDRAL OF THE DEAD EXPERIENCES FEAR FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A MILLENNIUM.

IT ALSO EXPERIENCES--

--PAIN.

WAAAAAAAAAAA!

WHAT IS THIS?

RMMMMBBLLLE

THE GOD CRIES OUT.

THE VERY WALLS ECHO HIS PAIN.

THE INTRUDERS!

RMMMMBBLLLE

WHAT HAVE THEY DONE?

KILL THEM!
KILL THEM NOW!
HUGPH!
WHAT IS THIS? MY ACOLYTES ALL DEAD?
WHAT MANNER OF SORCERY IS THIS?
NO SORCERY, PRIEST--
--JUST DEATH.

A GIFT NEITHER YOU NOR YOUR MEN ARE DESERVING OF--

--BUT IT IS THE PRICE OF FAILURE.

WHISH

KRAK

A GOD MAY HAVE DIED BECAUSE OF YOUR WITCHCRAFT, PRIEST.

NOW IS THE TIME FOR VENGEANCE.

THE *WARRIORS OF THE DEAD* WILL TRACK DOWN THESE SURFACE DWELLERS--

--AND SLAY THEM!

CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE...

MARVEL COMICS

TM

© 1991 MARVEL ENT GROUP, INC

$1.25 US
$1.50 CAN/UK 70p

94

CC 02214

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS

GHOST RIDER®

AND

CABLE™

CYPRESS HILLS, QUEENS...

SALEM FIELDS.

THREE IN THE MORNING.

NO ONE COMES TO THE CEMETERY AT SUCH AN UNGODLY HOUR.

ALMOST NO ONE.

JUBAL JONES SEES EACH CEMETERY AS AN UNTAPPED GOLD MINE.

EACH GRAVE HE UNEARTHS BRINGS HIM CLOSER TO THE SUMMER HOME HE HOPES TO BUY.

R.I.P

JUBAL JONES IS A GRAVE ROBBER.

HOPE YOU'RE RESTING IN PEACE, BUDDY!

THOUGHT IT WOULD BE EASIER IF IT WERE IN PIECES! LESS CUTTING FOR ME TO DO!

R.I.P

BUT FOR TWO GRAND--

--I'D CUT THE HEAD OFF OF MY OWN MOTHER IN-LAW!

THANK MY LUCKY STARS FOR ALL THE RELIGIOUS CULTS AROUND THESE DAYS TO TAKE THE BLAME.

KTHUNK

PAY DIRT!

RMMMMBLE

OMILORD.

THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING!

RRMMBLE

WE ARE FREE!

IT'S LIKE I'M IN ONE OF THOSE MOVIES.

PLEASE, LORD, FORGIVE ME!

I'LL NEVER DO ANYTHING LIKE THIS AGAIN. I'M BACK TO SELLING JUNK BONDS STARTING TOMORROW.

ALL THE MONEY I MADE DOING THIS WILL GO STRAIGHT TO THE CHURCH. PROMISE.

JUST DON'T LET IT GET ME.

YOOOOM

SERVANTS OF THE DEAD

PART 4

PURSUIT

featuring GHOST RIDER

CABLE

THANKS, LORD.

DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT THING WAS, BUT WE'VE GOT A DEAL.

STARTING WITH THE NEXT STIFF, TEN PERCENT OF EVERYTHING I DIG UP.

AFTER TAXES--

GAK!

KRAK

JUBAL JONES HAS INVADED HIS LAST GRAVE.

THE WARRIORS OF THE DEAD ARE ON THE TRAIL OF GHOST RIDER, CABLE AND ONE OF THEIR OWN.

RIP

FRED HUDSON

RIP

THE NEXT GRAVE THAT JUBAL JONES SEES WILL BE HIS OWN.

THE WARRIORS OF THE DEAD INTEND FOR HIM TO HAVE COMPANY.

RIP

JOHN SMITH

MEANWHILE, IN AN ABANDONED WAREHOUSE IN BROOKLYN'S EAST NEW YORK SECTION...

KRAK

THIS LOOKS LIKE AS GOOD A PLACE AS ANY TO REST--

--UNTIL WE GET THE GIRL TO LET US KNOW EXACTLY WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST.

NO.

WE CAN'T STOP NOW!

THEY'RE GOING TO KILL US!

CALM... ...DOWN

YOU'RE SAFE WITH US.

NO! NO...

OKAY.

LET'S START AT THE BEGINNING.

WE WANT TO KNOW EVERYTHING YOU KNOW ABOUT THESE ***GRATEFUL UNDEAD*** GUYS IF WE'RE GOING TO HELP YOU.

WHY DON'T YOU START WITH YOUR NAME?

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT I TELL YOU--

--WE'RE STILL DEAD.

MY NAME IS...IT'S...

I CAN'T REMEMBER. WHAT HAVE THEY DONE TO MY HEAD?

"I CAN REMEMBER EVERYTHING ABOUT THEM.

"ALL THEIR FOLKLORE AND ALL, BUT ME...?

"WHAT DID THEY DO TO ME?"

"WAR HAS BEEN A WAY OF LIFE FOR THE RACES THAT DWELL BENEATH THE SURFACE.

"FOR DECADES EACH RACE HAS STRIVED FOR DOMINANCE OVER ALL THE OTHERS.

"MY PEOPLE FULFILL A SERVICE. WE ARE THE ASSASSINS.

BARTERING OUR SKILLS FOR WHATEVER WE NEED TO PLEASE OUR GOD.

"WE ARE A SMALL RACE, BUT ONE WELL VERSED IN THE MYSTIC AND WARRIOR ARTS.

"I AM A NEOPHYTE. MUCH IS HAZY, BUT I REMEMBER BEING TAKEN TO A PLACE... A RELIGIOUS PLACE... A PLACE OF SACRIFICE, A PLACE OF..

"THAT'S IT!"

"THEY ARE FLESH EATERS.

"THEY EAT THE FLESH OF THE DEAD.

"I RAN."

THAT'S WHEN YOU FOUND ME.

THAT IS THE ONLY PART OF WHAT I JUST SAID THAT RINGS TRUE.

WAIT!

THEY ARE HERE.

THE REST SEEMS SOMEHOW UNREAL. AS THOUGH THE MEMORIES AREN'T MY OWN--

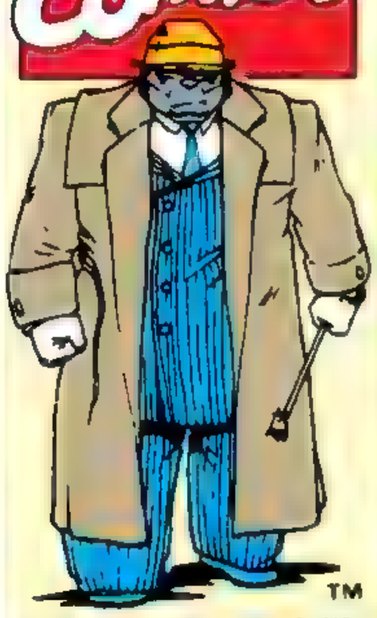
YOU'RE RIGHT.

TCHNK

LET THEM COME.

CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE...

MARVEL COMICS



™
© 1991 MARVEL ENT GROUP INC

$1.50 US
$1.80 CAN / UK 80p
95
CC 02214
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

MARVEL® COMICS PRESENTS™

GHOST RIDER®

AND

CABLE™

LIETH

SERVANTS OF THE DEAD

PART 6 OF 8

SHADOWS

FEATURING:

GHOST RIDER AND CABLE

WHAT ARE THEY WAITING FOR?

IT IS ONE OF THEIR TACTICS. THEY'RE TRYING TO PSYCH US OUT, CABLE.

NOT LIKELY, I'VE BEEN THROUGH TOO MANY BATTLES TO SPOOK EASILY--ER--NO OFFENSE, GHOST RIDER.

BUT IF THIS IS THE WAY THEY WANT TO PLAY IT--

--STAY!

GHOST RIDER AND CABLE HAVE ONLY JUST MET...

...BUT IN THEIR BATTLE TO PROTECT THIS UNKNOWN GIRL FROM THE UNDERGROUND RACE KNOWN AS THE GRATEFUL UNDEAD--

--THEY HAVE LEARNED TO ACT WITH ONE MIND.

DEMON.

MUTANT.

WITH THE LIFE OF AN INNOCENT GIRL AT STAKE, THEY ARE PREPARED TO DO ANYTHING.

AND THERE IS LITTLE LIMIT TO ANYTHING THESE TWO CAN ACCOMPLISH.

GHOST RIDER HAS SEEN TOO MUCH INNOCENT BLOOD SPILLED TO ALLOW IT TO HAPPEN AGAIN.

CABLE...

...HE'S JUST CABLE.

PTOOM PTOOM PTOOM

THE GIRL WILL NOT BE YOURS, ASSASSIN.

NICE SHOT!

LET'S FINISH THEM--

WHAUMP

HEY! WHERE'D THEY GO?

OH, REAL SHADOW WARRIOR TYPES.

WELL, THEY FALL DEAD JUST AS EASY-- AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO LOOK AT THEIR BLOOD.

WE PREFER NOT TO BLEED, CABLE.

THOUGH I COMPLIMENT YOU AND YOUR FRIEND ON YOUR FIGHTING TECHNIQUES.

QUITE EFFECTIVE. BUT THEY WILL STILL NOT PREVENT US FROM TAKING THE GIRL.

TCHINK

PARDON US IF WE TRY!

PTOOM

PTOOM PTOOM

SHALL WE CONTINUE OUR TALK?

NINJA TRICKS.

I'VE SEEN IT BEFORE AND I'VE SEEN BETTER.

SOMEHOW I DOUBT THAT. THE NINJA OF TODAY ARE BUFFOONS. THEY ATTEMPT TO PRACTICE AN ART THAT HAS LONG BEEN FORGOTTEN AND NOW HAS BEEN MONGRELIZED BY THE INEPT.

LONG AGO MY PEOPLE BROUGHT THE WARRIOR ARTS TO THE LORDS OF CHINA. THROUGH THE AGES THEY WERE PASSED DOWN AND COMBINED WITH LESSER FORMS UNTIL TODAY YOU HAVE NINJITSU.

BUT I AM NOT HERE TO GIVE YOU A HISTORY LESSON. I AM HERE TO COLLECT WHAT IS OURS.

SHE IS TO BE THE BRIDE OF HE WHO DWELLS BENEATH THE CATHEDRAL OF THE DEAD. THE PRIESTS WERE WRONG IN ATTEMPTING TO KILL SUCH VALIANT WARRIORS.

WE WILL COLLECT THE GIRL AND YOU MAY LEAVE WITH HONOR.

THE INNOCENT WILL LEAVE WITH US.

THINK YOU CAN DODGE BULLETS FROM THIS RANGE?

CLIK

DODGING IS NOT NECESSARY.

THE SHADOWS OF THE NIGHT ARE MINE TO COMMAND.

MY WARRIORS AND I LIVE AMONGST THEM.

WE MOVE WITHIN THEM AND--

--ACT!

I DO NOT WISH TO SPILL YOUR BLOOD OVER A MISTAKE. BUT I WILL.

THERE IS NO MISTAKE. WE'RE NOT GOING TO LET YOU THROW THE GIRL TO THAT OCTOPUS CREATURE UNDERNEATH THE BONES! WE'LL FIGHT YOU!

AND WE WILL WIN.

YOU SEEK TO PROTECT ONE WHO IS ALREADY DEAD.

YEAH, WE HEARD IT ALL BEFORE. BUT SHE'S NOT DYING IF WE CAN HELP IT!

NO. YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND! SHE IS DEAD! SHE IS OURS! I WILL PROVE IT TO YOU!

SCWISH

NO!

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

WHY SPILL THE BLOOD OF THE INNOCENT?

YOU CANNOT HIDE IN THE SHADOWS FROM VENGEANCE.

YOU MUST PAY DEARLY FOR WHAT YOU HAVE DONE! YOU MUST FEEL THE PAIN!

YOU WILL SEE THAT I HAVE NOT LIED TO YOU.

THERE IS HONOR BETWEEN WARRIORS.

THERE IS NO HONOR IN DEATH!

BUT YOU'LL KNOW THAT FIRSTHAND REAL SOON!

CABLE?

GHOST RIDER?

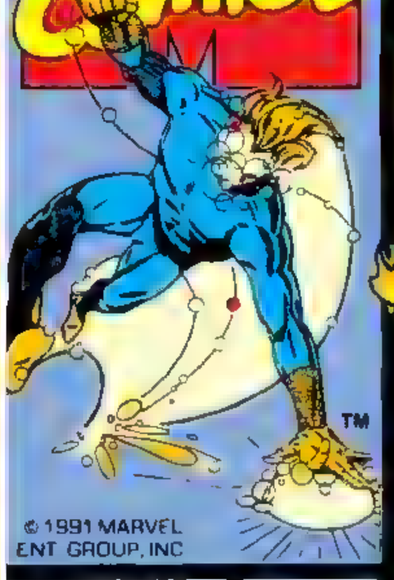
HELP ME? PLEASE?

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?

WHY AREN'T I DEAD?

CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE...

MARVEL COMICS



© 1991 MARVEL ENT GROUP, INC

$1.50 US
$1.80 CAN/UK 80p
96
CC 02214
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS™

GHOST RIDER®

AND

CABLE™

THE SERVANTS OF THE DEAD

PART 7 of 8

THE BRIDE

IT IS AS I SAID-- SHE BELONGS TO MY PEOPLE.

SHE IS ONE OF THE DEAD.

NO...IT CAN'T BE.

I'M ALIVE.

I AM.

BLAM!

GHOST RIDER AND CABLE

GHOST RIDER...

CABLE...

HELP ME... PLEASE.

THE SERVANTS OF THE DEAD ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN HELP YOU.

WE WILL TAKE YOU TO WHERE YOU BELONG.

NO!

YOU'RE LYING!

IT'S A TRICK!

I WON'T GO WITH YOU!

YOU HAVE NO CHOICE, GIRL--

--YOU ARE ALREADY OURS.

THWK

HOLD--

--THE GIRL DOES NOT WISH TO GO WITH YOU!

SHE MUST! SHE IS OURS! WITHOUT US, SHE CANNOT SURVIVE!

AND YOU CANNOT STOP US FROM TAKING HER!

WE CAN TRY.

SO IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE BACK TO WHERE WE STARTED.

GHOST RIDER AND ME AGAINST YOU AND YOUR FOUR WARRIORS.

I'VE BEEN UP AGAINST WORSE ODDS.

NO.

YOU ARE WARRIORS--- MEN OF HONOR.

IF THE TRUTH IS REVEALED, YOU WILL DO THE RIGHT THING.

THE GIRL THAT STANDS BEFORE YOU IS NO LONGER A LIVING HUMAN BEING.

SHE IS A SHELL.

HER NAME LONG FORGOTTEN.

SHE IS ONE OF THE DEAD, REANIMATED BY OUR PRIESTS.

IT IS AN ANCIENT RITUAL AND A GREAT HONOR.

ALL THE MEMORIES OF MY PEOPLE WERE GIVEN TO HER. IF SHE WOULD BUT OPEN HER MIND, ALL WOULD BE MADE CLEAR.

CEASE FIGHTING THE INEVITABLE.

NO.

NEVER!

I'LL NEVER DO THAT!

NO ONE CAN MAKE ME!

I'LL SEE YOU ALL DEAD FIRST!

I WON'T!

I WON'T!

I WON'T!

YOU HAVE NO CHOICE.

I W-WON'T...

NO MATTER WHAT IT IS-- YOU HAVE A CHOICE. WE'LL SEE TO THAT!

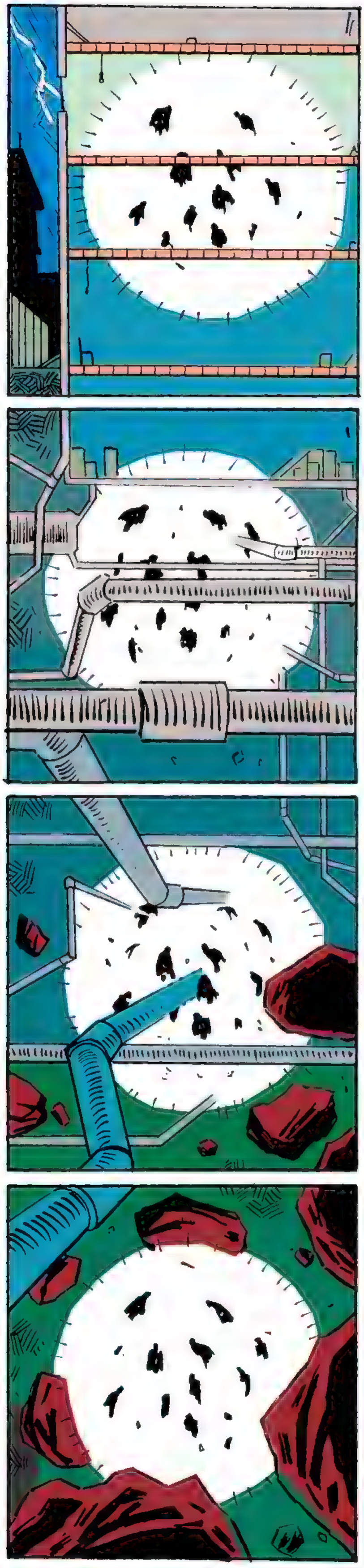
KRAKKOOM RMMMMMBLE

NO.

ANOTHER ATTACK?

ALL CHOICE HAS BEEN TAKEN OUT OF OUR HANDS.

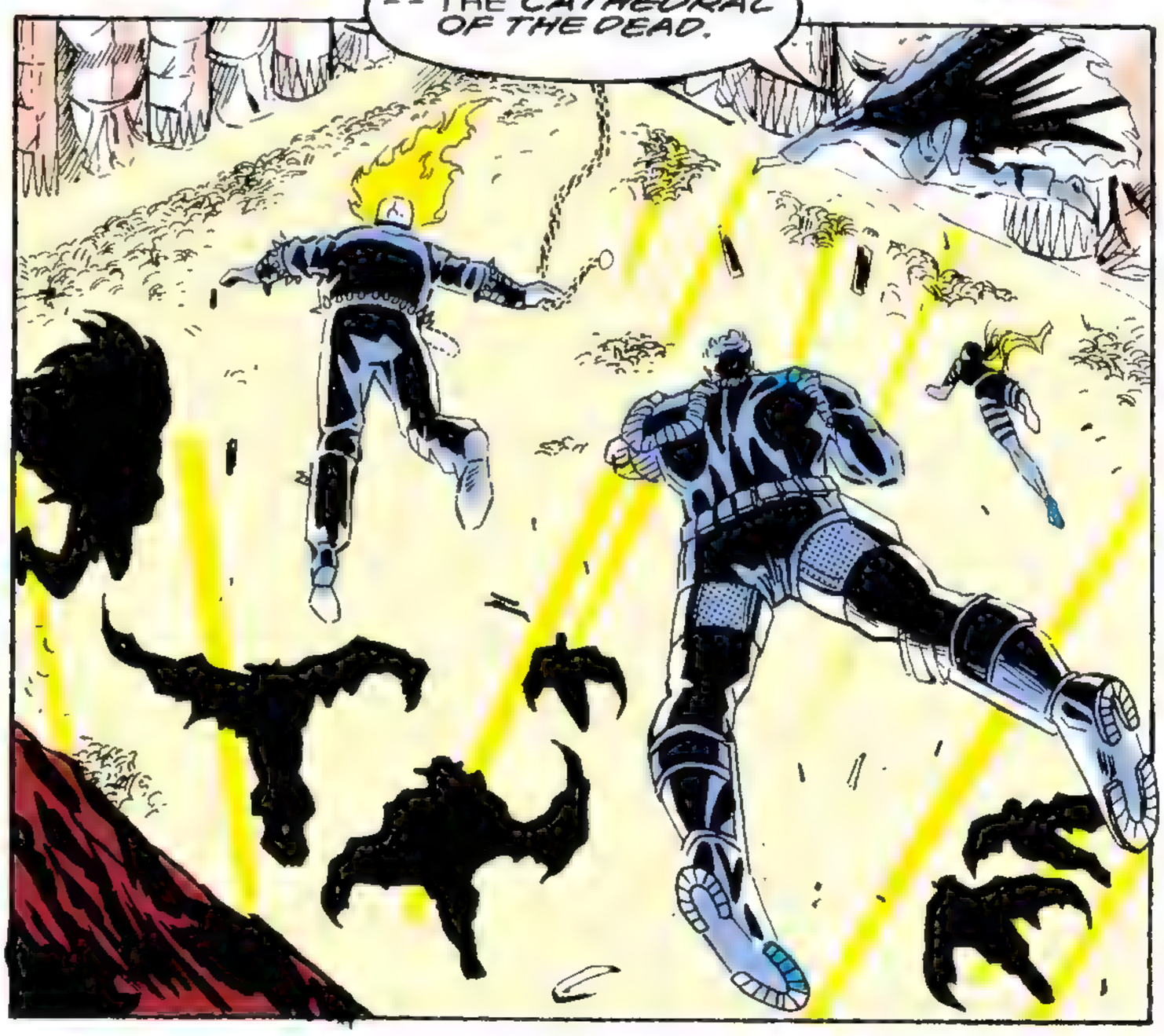
NOW OUR LIVES ARE IN THE HANDS OF MY GOD.



HE HAS REACHED OUT FOR THAT WHICH BELONGS TO HIM...

...CLAIMING HIS OWN.

AND THOSE THAT ATTEMPTED TO KILL HIM.
HIS ANGER WILL BE GREAT. HIS PUNISHMENT WILL BE GREATER.
WHICH IS WHY HE BRINGS US TO--


--THE CATHEDRAL OF THE DEAD.

THIS *IS* WHERE WE STARTED--

--AND I DON'T LIKE IT!

CABLE, I SENSE THE CREATURE BENEATH US STIRRING.

YEAH... WELL WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE AGAIN, AND UGLY HERE IS GOING TO HELP US--

IT IS TOO LATE!

BEHOLD--

--MY GOD--

--AND PREPARE--

-- TO DIE!

CONCLUDES NEXT ISSUE...

MARVEL COMICS

TM
© 1992 MARVEL ENT GROUP INC

$1.50 US
$1.80 CAN/UK 80p

97

CC 02214

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

MARVEL® COMICS PRESENTS™

GHOST RIDER®

AND

CABLE™

SERVANTS OF THE DEAD

PART 8 OF 8

DEATH'S SERVANT

YOU WILL NOT HAVE THE GIRL.

SHE WILL LIVE!

THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE, GHOST RIDER.

CABLE! HE'S COMING FOR ME!

NOT FOR LONG!

POOM

POOM

POOM

YOU WANT TO TRY AGAIN, GHOST RIDER?

NO! NONE MAY TOUCH OUR GOD!

DON'T EVEN BREATHE!

THE LOAD I JUST PUT IN WILL TAKE THE TOP OF YOUR HEAD OFF!

STOP!

KRAK

THE GIRL WILL NOT BE YOURS!

SHRACK

CURIOUS.

WHAT MANNER OF CREATURE ARE YOU?

I AM CALLED *GHOST RIDER*, THE SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE.

FWOOM!

REALLY? AND WHO NEEDS TO BE AVENGED?

THE GIRL.

YOU ARE MISTAKEN.

SHE IS ONE OF THE SACRED.

ONE OF THE DEAD.

SHE IS TO BE MY BRIDE.

NO!

SHE LIVES!

GHOST RIDER HIT HIM WITH EVERYTHING HE HAS--

--AND THAT THING IS GETTING UP AGAIN.

BUT IT LOOKS LIKE A LITTLE DAMAGE WAS DONE AFTER ALL-- A HAIRLINE FRACTURE IN THE SKULL.

LET'S SEE IF I CAN EXPLOIT THE *CRACK* GHOST RIDER CREATED.

TKOOM

"BINGO."

I CAN'T BELIEVE ALL THAT HAPPENED WAS HIS MASK BROKE APART.

THAT SLUG SHOULD HAVE TORN HIS FACE OFF HIS--

HOLY...! HIS FACE?

HE'S HUMAN!

HOLD.

PLEASE.

I WOULD UNDERSTAND THIS.

WHY DO YOU WISH TO HARM ME?

WHY DO YOU WISH TO PREVENT ME FROM PAYING HOMAGE TO THE DEAD?

I WILL LEARN FROM YOU.

WARRIOR. STEP FORTH.

WHY ARE YOU WEARING THE ARCHAIC GARB OF OUR PAST?

YES, LORD.

THE PRIESTS SAID IT WOULD PLEASE YOU!

REMOVE IT.

NO!

THIS CANNOT BE!

MY PEOPLE HAVE BECOME ASSASSINS. THIS WAS NOT WHAT I INTENDED.

ONCE I WAS A MAGICIAN. A NECROMANCER...ONE WHO WORSHIPPED THE DEAD. TRIED TO USE THEM FOR MY OWN EVIL PURPOSES, BUT THEN I CAME DOWN HERE AND I WAS SAVED.

I LIVED AMONG THE DEAD. I RECEIVED THE POWER. BUT I ALSO RECEIVED UNDERSTANDING. I BECAME LIKE A GOD TO A SMALL RACE WHO DWELLED BENEATH THE EARTH.

THIS I ACCEPTED. ALL I ASKED WAS THAT MY FOLLOWERS RESPECT THE DEAD. TO WORSHIP THEM. INSTEAD THEY HAVE BECOME ASSASSINS. DEATH MERCHANTS.

THIS IS MY FAULT FOR WORSHIPPING THE DEAD INSTEAD OF PAYING ATTENTION TO THE LIVING.

THIS WILL STOP-- TODAY!

GHOST RIDER, CABLE...LEAVE NOW. LEAVE ME TO MY PEOPLE.

NOT WITHOUT THE GIRL.

HER FATE IS HER OWN.

SHE HAS CHOSEN DEATH... TRUE DEATH.

I SUGGEST THAT-- UNLESS WE WANT THE SAME CHOICE WE LEAVE NOW.

REMEMBER. WE WERE NOT ENEMIES. WE ARE ALL THREE *SERVANTS OF THE DEAD.*

LATER...

THE SALEM FIELDS CEMETERY, CYPRESS HILLS...

...THE GROUND RUMBLES.

WITH THE ANGER OF A GOD--

OR WITH THE ROAR OF VENGEANCE?

THIS IS WHERE I GET OFF.

THE LAST THING HE SAID--ABOUT BEING SERVANTS OF THE DEAD.

HE WAS RIGHT. IT'S TIME WE BOTH TOOK A LOOK AT THE LIVING.

THERE IS NOTHING WE CAN DO FOR THE DEAD.

I SERVE ONLY VENGEANCE.

MAYBE IT'S THE SAME THING.

THEY DEPART.

ALLIES.

NO ONE HEARD THEIR CONVERSATION.

NO ONE WITNESSED THEIR HEROICS.

NO ONE--

--BUT THE DEAD.

END.

GHOST RIDER®
WOLVERINE®
PUNISHER®
HEARTS of DARKNESS
JBJR
JANSON
GHOST RIDER/WOLVERINE/PUNISHER
A new breed of hero: Motorcycle-riding spirit of vengeance, adamantium-clawed mutant, and battle-hardened vigilante. More than their tools and their methods separate them from the rest of earth's heroes. There is something that burns more fiercely inside each one of them
BLACKHEART
A new breed of villain: Evil incarnate. The insane hellspawn of Mephisto. Bent on the assassination of his father. Seeking allies, he attempts to reach into the deepest parts of the heroes' hearts and souls
CHRIST'S CROWN
A quiet midwestern town: The residents find themselves caught at the center of a struggle between forces they cannot comprehend. . .
A struggle that will cause the heroes to look within themselves.
A struggle that will lead to the very gates of hell itself.
CC 01898
$4.95 US
$5.75 CAN
£2.60 UK
ISBN #0-87135-873-5

GHOST RIDER WOLVERINE PUNISHER

HEARTS of DARKNESS

HOWARD MACKIE
writer

JOHN ROMITA JR.
penciler

KLAUS JANSON
inker

JOHN WELLINGTON
colorist

JOE ROSEN
letterer

BOBBIE CHASE
editor

CHRIS COOPER
assistant editor

TOM DEFALCO
editor in chief

DAWN GEIGER
designer

CHRIST'S CROWN.

THIS THORN COVERED HILLTOP HAS BEEN A PLACE OF WORSHIP AND SACRIFICE FOR CENTURIES.

TONIGHT IS NO DIFFERENT.

THIS WE GIVE TO YOU.

THIS

WE GIVE

TO YOU.

A LIFE IS TAKEN.

BLOOD IS SPILLED.

IT SEEPS INTO THE GROUND TO MINGLE WITH THE BLOOD OF COUNTLESS OTHERS.

THERE IT ROILS...

...AND BOILS.

UNTIL...

...AN ERUPTION SPRINGS FORTH.

A PUTREFIED EMOTION OF HATE AND LOATHING NAMED--

--BLACKHEART!

YOU *DARE* SUMMON ME WITH YOUR CHILDISH OFFERINGS OF BLOOD?

THIS YOU GIVE TO THE SON OF *MEPHISTO*?

I WILL TAKE YOUR OFFERING AND *MORE!*

BLOOD, MUSCLE, AND FLESH WILL BE MINE.

I WILL LICK YOUR ASHEN REMAINS FROM YOUR CHARRED BONE!

NOOOOO

OOO!

OH, *YES!* I DO THIS BECAUSE I CAN-- ARGHHH!

YOU HAVE DONE THIS TO ME, *FATHER.*

YOU HAVE *DIMINISHED* ME, FATHER.

FORCED ME TO BE WORSHIPED AS A PETTY DEITY AND TAKEN FROM ME THAT WHICH I MOST ADMIRED IN MAN-- FREE WILL.

BUT I WILL TAKE IT NO LONGER, MEPHISTO/ FATHER!

I WILL NOT BE ANOTHER OF YOUR TORTURED AMUSEMENTS. I AM YOUR *ASSASSIN!*

UNFORTUNATELY, FOR ME TO BRING YOU DOWN, I MUST PLAY THE ROLE THAT YOU SET FOR ME EVEN FURTHER.

I MUST BECOME A CORRUPTER OF MEN.

BUT I WILL BE *SELECT* IN MY CORRUPTION, FATHER. NOT THE INDISCRIMINATE LOUT THAT YOU HAVE BECOME THROUGH THE MILLENNIA.

THERE IS A *NEW BREED* OF MAN. ONE WHOSE FALL TOWARDS THE CORRUPT WILL NOT BE SO FAR. AND ONE THAT, WITH THE *POWER* YOU HAVE FOOLISHLY ALLOWED ME TO KEEP, I WILL BE ABLE TO IMBUE WITH THE STRENGTH TO BRING YOU DOWN!

YOU WANT A GAME, FATHER? YOU WILL HAVE ONE!

A GAME THAT I WILL WIN BEFORE MADNESS OVERTAKES ME!

"THE GAME BEGINS. THE PAWNS MOVE INTO PLACE."

CHRIST'S CROWN. WHAT A NAME FOR A TOWN.

AND WHAT'S A KID FROM BROOKLYN DOING OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF ALL THIS CLEAN AIR?

HARDWARE

BARBER

CARPET

AH! CIVILIZATION.

THE TOWN SEEMS NICE ENOUGH.

GUESS I'D BETTER FIND SOMEPLACE TO STAY UNTIL MY MYSTERIOUS STRANGER CONTACTS ME AGAIN.

FLO'S BOARDING HOUSE

HOW DO?

HI. MY NAME'S DAN KETCH, AND I'M LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO STAY A COUPLE OF DAYS.

WELL, DAN KETCH, YOU CAME TO THE RIGHT PLACE. I'M FLO CRUMM.

SEEMS TO BE OUR LITTLE TOWN'S TIME FOR VISITORS. TWO OTHER ROOMERS ARE WITH ME RIGHT NOW. HMPH! AND THIS USED TO BE THE SLOW SEASON. I GUESS THINGS ARE PICKING UP!

YOU'RE FROM BACK EAST FROM THE SOUND OF IT, DAN. WHAT BRINGS YOU TO OUR TOWN?

MEETING AN OLD FRIEND WHO LIVES NEAR HERE--

BOOMP

SORRY, MISTER. I DIDN'T MEAN TO...

THIS HERE LITTLE ANGEL IS MY DAUGHTER, LUCY. LUCY, THIS IS DAN.

HI, LUCY.

YOU KNOW WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE MY SISTER USED TO THROW HER BALL AT MY HEAD. YOU REMIND ME OF HER.

DID YOUR SISTER GROW UP TO BE AS PRETTY AS MY MOMMY?

YES. SHE DID.

I LIKE YOU, DAN. YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, JUST LIKE MR. LOGAN AND MR. FRANK.

UHH, THANKS.

NOW YOU GO WASH UP! DINNER WILL BE READY SOON.

YOU'LL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO CHAT WITH OUR VISITORS LATER.

SOMETIMES IT WORRIES ME HOW SHE JUST TAKES TO SOME PEOPLE.

BUT THEN AGAIN I TRULY BELIEVE THAT THERE ISN'T A BAD BONE IN THAT CHILD'S BODY.

NOW IF YOU'LL JUST SIGN THE REGISTER, DAN. I'LL SHOW YOU YOUR ROOM AND YOU CAN GET CLEANED UP. DINNER WILL BE READY IN ABOUT TWENTY MINUTES.

HMM...

WONDER IF THAT'S THE GUY I'M SUPPOSED TO MEET?

SOON...

HAVE A SEAT, DAN, WE'RE JUST ABOUT TO START.

DAN KETCH. LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO OUR TWO OTHER BOARDERS--

MR. LOGAN HERE IS FROM UP NORTH.

AND MR. FRANK HERE IS FROM BACK EAST TOO.

BOTH OF THEM ARE HERE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE FINE HUNTING WE HAVE IN THESE PARTS.

DO YOU HUNT, DAN?

NO, LUCY-- NEVER HAVE.

GOOD. I THINK IT'S YUCKY! LIKE IN BAMBI WHEN HIS MOMMY GETS--

HUSH, LUCY!

SOMETHING ABOUT THESE TWO...I FEEL LIKE I'VE MET THEM BEFORE.

EVEN THOUGH THEY HUNT, MR. FRANK AND MR. LOGAN ARE REAL NICE!

BUT I THINK THEY SHOULD TAKE PICTURES OF ANIMALS INSTEAD.

I KNOW THEY DON'T *REALLY* WANT TO HURT ANYTHING--

--RIGHT?

LATER...

THAT KID'S A CUTIE.

WONDER HOW GOOD SHE WOULD THINK I WAS IF SHE KNEW I WAS GHOST RIDER?

WOULD SHE THINK THAT GHOST RIDER IS GOOD TOO?

DO I?

SOMETIMES HE COMES SO CLOSE TO THE EDGE THAT I WONDER.

GUESS THAT'S WHY I'M HERE. IN SEARCH OF SOME ANSWERS.

MR. KEETCH.
THE SECRETS OF THE GHOST RIDER CAN BE YOURS. COME TO CHRIST'S CROWN AND ALL WILL BE REVEALED, TRUST ME AND LEARN THE SECRETS OF THE SOUL CRYSTAL.
SINCERELY,
B.H.

THE "SOUL CRYSTAL"?

THE ONLY OTHER TIME THAT I'VE HEARD ABOUT THE SOUL CRYSTAL WAS FROM BLAZE--

--WAIT A MINUTE! NIGHTMARE MENTIONED IT TO ME, TOO.

COULD THIS ALL BE ANOTHER SCHEME OF HIS?

EVEN IF IT IS, I'VE GOT TO TAKE THE CHANCE.

I'VE GOT TO KNOW IF I'M GOING TO LOSE CONTROL TO THE DEMON WITHIN ME, LIKE BLAZE DID!

I'M TAKING NO CHANCES.

NO MORE THAN USUAL.

SOMEBODY SENDS ME A NOTE CLAIMING TO KNOW WHERE ONE OF THE SLIME WHO KILLED MY FAMILY IS HOLED UP.

I ALREADY KNOW THAT ANSWER FOR CERTAIN.

I PUT THEM UNDER THE GROUND MYSELF.

BUT SOMEBODY WAS ABLE TO FIND ME. GET THE NOTE TO ME.

I DON'T LIKE THAT.

NOT AT ALL.

KNOK KNOK

YEAH.

CLIK

SNIKT

GUESS WHO?

MR. LOGAN?

THOUGHT IT WAS YOU. DIDN'T THINK YOU'D RECOG-NIZE ME.

THE PHONY MUSTACHE AIN'T THAT GOOD OF A DISGUISE.

BESIDES YOU'VE GOT THE STINK OF DEATH ON YOU, PUNISHER--

--JUST LIKE ME!

WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE, WOLVERINE?

I SUPPOSE THE SAME AS YOU. GET ANY MYSTERIOUS NOTES LATELY?

YOU, TOO?

YUP. AND IT WAS FULL OF A BUNCH OF MOOSE DUNG TELLIN' ME THAT I COULD LEARN ABOUT WHO GAVE ME MY PIG STICKERS, AS THOUGH I CARE.

SOME SORT OF SETUP?

LOOKS THAT WAY.

BUT WHY BOTH OF US? WE DON'T EXACTLY TRAVEL IN THE SAME SOCIAL CIRCLES.

YOU THINK THE KETCH KID IS INVOLVED?

I DON'T KNOW... SOMETHING ABOUT HIM TICKLES MY NOSE.

I GUESS WE'RE JUST GONNA HAVE TO WAIT.

I'M A TERRIBLE WAITER.

ME, TOO!

THE WAITING IS KILLING ME.

I FEEL LIKE I SHOULD BE DOING SOMETHING OTHER THAN SITTING IN THE DARK.

AND IT IS SO DARK HERE AT NIGHT.

"SO DARK!"

WOLVERINE HAD THE RIGHT IDEA.

IT'S TIME TO DO A LITTLE RECON MISSION.

SEE WHAT THE NIGHT--

--REVEALS.

NO STARS. NO MOON.

SNIFF SNIFF

SOMETHING SMELLS LIKE ROTTING MEAT.

SMELLS LIKE--

SNIKT

--DEATH!

SNIKT

I'VE TRULY BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS MEETING, DANIEL.

I'VE GOT TO GET TO THE BIKE.

NO NEED TO BE NERVOUS. I'VE COME HERE TO MAKE YOU AN OFFER. SECRETS CAN BE YOURS.

YOU WILL LISTEN, WON'T YOU?

I GUESS.

GOOD. I CAN SEE THAT YOU WILL BE THE MOST REASONABLE OF THE THREE--

--BUT THEIR RAGE IS GOOD. EXACTLY THE KIND OF FEROCITY I HOPE TO TAP INTO.

THOUGH I HOPE TO TURN IT AGAINST A MORE DESERVING TARGET.

ALL THREE OF YOU REPRESENT HUMANITY'S NEWEST BREED OF HERO.

A HERO THAT ISN'T AFRAID TO APPROACH THE EDGE WHEN THE NEED ARISES.

IT IS AN INTANGIBLE THING. A GRAY AREA WHICH RESIDES WITHIN EACH OF YOU, IN A PLACE THAT MY FATHER WOULD CALL YOUR SOUL.

IT ALLOWS YOU TO OVERRIDE THE HUMAN EMOTIONS THAT OFTEN GET IN YOUR WAY AND GO FOR THE JUGULAR.

I CAN HELP YOU TAP FURTHER INTO THAT PLACE, WITH YOUR CONSENT, AND EXPAND UPON YOUR POWERS. ENOUGH SO THAT I TRULY BELIEVE WE COULD KILL MY FATHER.

THINK OF WHAT A BOON THAT WOULD BE TO THE HUMAN RACE.

JOIN ME. AND BRING DOWN THE GREATEST EVIL YOUR RACE HAS EVER KNOWN. MY FATHER. MEPHISTO.

MEPHISTO IS WAY OUT OF MY LEAGUE. MAYBE YOU SHOULD TALK TO *THOR* OR THE *SILVER SURFER*. I'M SURE THEY'D BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO HELP.

THEY WOULDN'T DO.

WHAT IS THIS CRAP? YOU THINK I'M BUYING INTO ALL THIS MYSTICAL MUMBO JUMBO? GET RID OF THE HOLOGRAM AND I'LL SHOW YOU SOME HIDDEN PLACES INSIDE OF *YOU!*

OH, PUNISHER! YOU OF ALL PEOPLE WOULD LOVE WHAT I COULD GIVE YOU, AFTER WE ARE DONE WITH MY FATHER YOU COULD TAKE YOUR PUNISHING CRUSADE TO NEW HEIGHTS OF GLORY, OF WHICH YOU'VE ONLY DARED DREAM.

WHAT ABOUT ME? I DON'T SEE HOW I FIT INTO ALL THIS!

DANIEL, CAN YOU BE SO NAIVE?

DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT IT WAS AN ACCIDENT-- CHANCE, PERHAPS?-- THAT BROUGHT YOU IN CONTACT WITH THE *GHOST RIDER*? CAN YOU NOT LOOK INSIDE YOURSELVES-- ALL OF YOU?!

CAN YOU NOT SEE THIS PLACE THAT I'M TALKING ABOUT? SEE THE DESIRE THAT YOU HAVE TO LET IT EMERGE AND TAKE YOU ALL TO A HIGHER DESTINY?

JOIN ME NOW AND I WILL SHOW YOU!

WHAT? YOU REJECT ME?

I AM THE SON OF *MEPHISTO*-- YOUR WORLD'S DEVIL. I OFFER YOU THE CHANCE TO BE RID OF HIM, AND YOU DENY ME.

NO.

NO.

NO.

NO.

HE HAS SENT ME AMONGST YOU HUMANS AS PUNISHMENT FOR CHALLENGING HIS ARCHAIC WAYS.

HE WANTS ME TO SEE THE ERROR OF MY WAYS. HE WANTS ME TO BECOME HIM--

--AND I WILL NOT HAVE IT!

I'VE MADE A VERY GENER-OUS OFFER TO EACH OF YOU.

YOU DARE SPURN IT?

WELL, NOW WE'LL HAVE TO CONVINCE YOU IN A DIFFERENT MANNER!

NO! MOMMY! DON'T!

LUCY!

NO... PLEASE... HELP!

YOU THINK BLACKHEART'S GONE AFTER LUCY?

THAT'S WHAT WE AIM TO FIND OUT, KID.

FAY'S BOARDING HOUSE

MOMMY, PLEASE DON'T GO!

HE'S BAD.

HE'LL HURT YOU. MAKE YOU DO BAD THINGS, MOMMY.

MOMMY? PLEASE?

LOOKS LIKE THE ENTIRE TOWN IS IN THE SAME KIND OF TRANCE. WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

MR. FRANK! MR. LOGAN! YOU HAVE TO HELP MY MOMMY...THE BAD MAN...

DON'T WORRY, LITTLE DARLIN'. WE'RE GOING TO HELP YOUR MOMMY AND BRING HER BACK HERE *SAFE* AND *SOUND*.

BUT THE *BAD MAN*...

YOU JUST GET IN THE HOUSE AND LEAVE *HIM* TO US.

"WHAT ARE *WE* GOING TO DO?" WHAT A DOPE I AM. I'M NOT EVEN CLOSE TO WOLVERINE AND PUNISHER'S LEAGUE.

BUT *GHOST RIDER*, ON THE OTHER HAND--

GOT TO GET TO THE--

--BIKE?!

IT'S *GONE*! NOW WHAT DO I--

NOOOOO

HAHAHAHAH!

I'VE GOT TO TRY AND DO *SOMETHING*.

LUCY. HE'S GOT HER!

I'VE--

LOSE SOMETHING, DANIEL?

A BIT *EMASCULATING*-- ISN'T IT?

THAT IS HOW MY FATHER HAS MADE ME FEEL.

CONDEMNED TO LIVE AMONGST MY *INFERIORS!*

YOU *WILL* HELP ME!

ALL *THREE* OF YOU.

YOU WILL SEE IT *MY* WAY.

THE *RIGHT* WAY!

THIS THING IS NUTS. HE'S A *LUNATIC.*

I'VE GOT TO GET THROUGH THIS CROWD. FIND LUCY. FIND THE BIKE.

LOOKS LIKE PUNISHER AND WOLVERINE ARE HAVING JUST AS MUCH TROUBLE.

OH, YOU DO SO WANT TO HURT ME, DON'T YOU?

WHY LET THE TOWNSFOLK STAND IN YOUR WAY? THEY ARE *CORRUPTED.*

CUT.

SLASH.

SHOOT.

PUMMEL.

THIS IS WHAT YOU DO BEST.

DO IT! YOU WANT TO!

I CAN SMELL YOUR BLOOD BOILING.

GO THROUGH THEM AND YOU CAN HAVE ME. THEY ARE *NOTHING.*

ISN'T IT WORTH HURTING, *KILLING*, A FEW OF THEM TO GET TO ME?

IT IS SUCH A GRAY AREA. GO THERE. TAP INTO IT.

COME TO ME!

OR MANY MORE WILL DIE!

MY GOD!

PERHAPS YOU NEED *ADDITIONAL* INCENTIVE?

I BELIEVE THE THREE OF YOU HAVE BECOME ATTACHED TO THIS THING.

THE ONE *UNCORRUPTED SOUL* IN THE TOWN.

MOMMY!

SNIKT

LUCY!

ENOUGH WITH THE MYSTICAL BULL. YOU'RE *MINE.*

BRRAAT

THUP THUP THUP

HA! HA! HA!

THIS IS THE BEST YOU CAN DO?

YOU OVER-ESTIMATE YOUR ABILITIES, PUNISHER!

I SAID YOU HAVE THE *POTENTIAL* WITHIN YOU TO HELP ASSASSINATE MY FATHER.

YOU ARE NOT THERE YET. YOU ARE *UNFORMED*. I MUST HAVE ACCESS TO YOUR VERY SOULS.

I MUST BOND A PART OF ME TO THEM.

COME! BE COURAGEOUS. GO OVER THAT EDGE.

FOLLOW ME!

KEEP RIGHT

NO! DON'T LET HIM! NO-- OWWW!

BLOOD.

BARB'S-- NO! LUCY'S!

FOLLOW ME TO THE VERY GATES OF HELL ITSELF!

MY FATHER'S DEATH AWAITS US!

HOW DOES THE WARM AND SALTY INNOCENT BLOOD TASTE UPON YOUR LIPS, DANIEL?

VENGEANCE MUST BE SERVED!

FOLLOW ME!

RELEASE HIM!

LUCY!!!

STUPID KID. HE'LL NEVER CATCH THAT THING ON FOOT!

YOU GOT WHEELS--

--I WANT A RIDE!

I'M IN THE MOOD TO CUT SOMETHING.

LUCY.

I CAN'T KEEP UP WITH THEM WITHOUT MY BIKE.

HE'S DOING THIS TO TORTURE ME.

I NEED TRANSPORTATION.

SALE

I NEED--

--A BIKE!

KRASH

GOT TO WIPE HER BLOOD OFF MY FACE. OFF MY--

--HANDS? COULD BLACKHEART HAVE BEEN RIGHT?

DOES THE TRANS-FORMATION COME FROM WITHIN ME?

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

WHAT DOES THIS SAY ABOUT ME?

WHAT DOES--

--THIS SAY--

--ABOUT--

--GHOST RIDER?!!

NOW, BLACKHEART, IT IS YOUR TURN TO SUFFER.

THE BLOOD THAT YOU HAVE SPILLED CRIES OUT FOR VENGEANCE.

THE CRIES WILL BE QUIETED.

IT'S TOO QUIET.

I KNOW.

MAYBE IT'S TIME WE MADE SOME NOISE?

GRAB A WEAPON. I'M WELL STOCKED.

THANKS--

--I CARRY MY OWN.

RIGHT.

SNIKT

WHO WE DOING THIS FOR?

THE KID. I DON'T LIKE SEEING KIDS HURT.

YOU AND ME BOTH.

JUST WANTED TO MAKE SURE BEFORE WE STARTED WADING INTO THIS THING.

IT'S GONNA GET BLOODY.

I'VE SEEN IT BEFORE.

I'VE SEEN MY SHARE OF *THAT*, TOO.

I DON'T DOUBT THAT. IT'S JUST THIS TIME IT'S LIKELY TO BE *OUR* BLOOD.

WELCOME TO THE CLUB.

BUT IF WE DON'T GET THROUGH THESE *THORNS* OURS IS GOING TO BE THE *ONLY* BLOOD WE SEE!

THEY'RE LIKE RAZOR WIRE. HOW DID BLACK-HEART--?

RRRRRRRRRRRRR

BLACKHEART!

GHOST RIDER?

I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE THE BIKE.

SO, HE PICKED UP A NEW ONE. I DO IT ALL THE TIME.

DOES IT REALLY MATTER? HE'S CLEARED A TRAIL FOR US.

A NEW MOTORCYCLE, GHOST RIDER?

INTERESTING! THERE IS MUCH ABOUT YOU THAT REMAINS A MYSTERY.

I WONDER IF EVEN MY FATHER *TRULY* KNOWS WHO OR WHAT YOU ARE?

BUT I GUESS WE CAN FIND OUT BEFORE WE KILL HIM.

BACK TO THE BUSINESS AT HAND.

WE NOW STAND ON THE DOORWAY TO HELL ITSELF. STEP THROUGH WITH ME. CROSS THE EDGE. I DID NOT LIE TO YOU IN YOUR NOTES. I CAN FULFILL YOUR GREATEST DESIRES.

YOUR FAMILY, FRANK. THEY CAN BE YOURS AGAIN.

JOIN ME OR--

--OR CONTINUE TO SEE THEIR DEATHS EVERY TIME YOU CLOSE YOUR EYES.

YOUR FAMILY AND THE DEATH OF THE GREATEST EVIL EARTH HAS EVER KNOWN. THINK ABOUT IT, FRANK!

WOLVERINE, WHAT IS IT THAT YOU DESIRE?

HOW ABOUT THAT MISSING PART OF YOUR LIFE?

THE SECRET OF THOSE ADAMANTIUM BONES THAT ALLOW YOU TO REND FLESH, BONE, AND ANYTHING ELSE THAT PLEASES YOU?

I WILL HELP YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE!

AIN'T INTERESTED, BLACKIE! WHAT'S DONE IS DONE!

WE'LL SEE, LOGAN!

GHOST RIDER!

ZARATHOS!

IF THAT IS WHO YOU ARE--

--YOUR MEMORIES, YOUR POWER, YOUR FORMER GREATNESS CAN BE RESTORED.

THE SECRET IS WITHIN THE SOUL CRYSTAL. WITH MY FATHER.

HELP ME AND WE WILL TEAR THE SECRET FROM HIM. YOU CAN ONCE AGAIN BE A DEVOURER OF SOULS!

YOUR ANSWERS?

SNIKT

POOM
POOM

TCHINK
WHIRR

I OFFERED YOU A CHANCE AT GREATNESS--

--AND YOU ASK FOR DEATH!

IT WILL BE YOURS!

AND HERS!

WHAT ARE THESE THINGS?

DON'T ASK! JUST GET THROUGH THEM!

THEY'RE TRYING TO GET LUCY!

NO!

TCHINK

I WILL FOLLOW--

BLACKHEART WILL NOT HAVE ANOTHER INNOCENT SOUL!

--WHEREVER THESE INHUMAN FIENDS MAY LEAD ME!

SHE WILL BE SAVED!

I WAS HOPING YOU'D FEEL THAT WAY, HERO!

THOUGH I ALSO HOPED YOUR TWO COMPANIONS WOULD HAVE THE WHERE-WITHAL TO JOIN YOU!

NO MATTER! I HAVE YOU WHERE I WANT YOU!

YOU ARE TEETERING ON THE EDGE. THE EDGE OF GREATNESS. THE EDGE OF POWER.

TAKE THE FINAL STEP. JOIN ME!

NO!

YOU TALK OF AN *EDGE*. OF THE DARK PLACE IN ALL SOULS!

HOW CAN YOU SEE INTO A PLACE THAT EVEN I CANNOT?

LOOK INTO YOURSELF, FIEND!

SEE THE PAIN YOU HAVE CAUSED.

SEE THE PUTRIFICATION, THE ROT, THE MADNESS THAT YOUR FATHER HAS FORCED UPON YOU!

FEEL THE PAIN!!!

YOU OFFER ME POWER AND SOULS.

I HAVE NO DESIRE FOR THESE THINGS.

THE KNOWLEDGE I SEEK WILL BE MINE WITHOUT YOUR HELP--

--WITHOUT YOUR MADNESS.

YOUR EDGE MEANS NOTHING TO ME. I CANNOT SEE IT!

YOUR OFFER IS A HOLLOW ONE...

...YOUR THREATS ARE HOLLOW...

...YOU ARE HOLLOW!

YOU CANNOT BE THE GREAT SOUL DEVOURER ZARATHOS!

THE ONE WITH THE POWER TO RIVAL MY FATHER.

YOU ARE A SELF-RIGHTEOUS FOOL --

--WHO HAS SPURNED THE POWER AND NOW WILL SEE THAT MY THREATS ARE NOT HOLLOW!

YOU WILL BE BATHED IN THE BLOOD OF THIS INNOCENT CHILD YOU SEEK TO PROTECT!

I WILL BIND IT TO THE VERY FIBER OF YOUR BEING.

YOU WILL LIVE WITH THE FOLLY OF YOUR DECISION FOR THE REST OF YOUR UNDYING DAYS!

SHWIK

MAYBE NOT.

YOU DARE!

YOU THINK YOU CAN STOP ME WITH YOUR PITIFUL WEAPONS? YOUR *CLAWS*? YOUR *GUNS*?

WE'LL GIVE IT A TRY!

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

AND KEEP TRYING--

--UNTIL PHONIES LIKE YOU SHUTUP!

YOU CAN TAKE YOUR EDGE AND SHOVE IT! IT DOESN'T EXIST!

NO GRAY AREA!

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

POOM POOM POOM POOM

IF I EVER HAD A SOUL, IT'S LONG GONE!

THERE IS JUST RIGHT, WRONG, AND--

--PUNISHMENT!

NOOOOOO!

I THINK THE POINT MY FRIEND IS TRYING TO MAKE IS THAT WE ALL HAVE OUR PERSONAL LIMITS.

WE MAY BE CLOSE TO AN EDGE--

--BUT IT'S AN EDGE THAT WE CHOOSE NEVER TO GO OVER.

TOO BAD YOU DIDN'T MAKE THE SAME CHOICE. YOU ALLOWED YOUR FATHER TO PUSH YOUR BUTTONS. HE PLAYED YOU LIKE A PUPPET.

YOU TEMPTED, YOU TORTURED, YOU THREATENED--

--YOU BECAME YOUR FATHER! WELCOME TO THE REAL WORLD, JUNIOR!

HEY! THIS THING, WHATEVER IT IS, IS STARTING TO TRY AND PULL ITSELF BACK TOGETHER. WHAT IS IT... SOME SORT OF MUTANT?

NO OFFENSE.

NONE TAKEN.

YOU TAKE THE GIRL BACK.

I WILL MAKE SURE THAT BLACKHEART DOESN'T FOLLOW.

IT IS YOUR DEATH, GHOST RIDER.

HA! HA! HA! HA!

WELL DONE, MY SON!

YOU HAVE BECOME EXACTLY WHAT I HAD HOPED.

YOUR FATHER IS PROUD.

PERHAPS NOW YOU CAN STOP WITH ALL YOUR TALK OF MY ARCHAIC WAYS AND ACCEPT WHAT YOU ARE. LEARN THAT YOU CANNOT CHANGE YOURSELF ANY MORE THAN YOU COULD CHANGE THESE HEROES.

AND YOU, GHOST RIDER-- YOU ARE AN ENIGMA EVEN TO ME.

I SENSE THAT IT IS A PUZZLE OVER WHICH WE WILL COME TOGETHER IN THE FUTURE.

BUT TODAY IS FOR MY SON.

TIME FOR A FATHER TO HELP HIM REFLECT ON THE LESSONS LEARNED.

TIME FOR ME TO SHOW HIM MY LOVE.

HE WILL LEARN.

GO NOW, GHOST RIDER--

--BUT WE WILL MEET AGAIN.

SOON.

AND THERE WILL BE NO GRAY AREAS INVOLVED.

THE TRUTH WILL BE REVEALED.

HE'S BACK.

SO'S LUCY'S MOM.

WOLVERINE, DO YOU THINK THIS WAS ALL FOR REAL?

STRANGER THINGS HAVE HAPPENED TO BOTH OF US, BUB!

ALL THIS TALK ABOUT US BEING CLOSE TO THE EDGE... WHAT DO YOU REALLY THINK?

WHO KNOWS?

IT DOESN'T MATTER IF THERE IS AN EDGE--

--OR IF WE OCCASIONALLY CROSS IT.

AS LONG AS THE INNOCENT ARE PROTECTED--

--OUR CAUSE IS JUST.

END.

MARVEL COMICS

© 1991 MARVEL ENT GROUP INC

$2.25 US
$2.70 CAN
1
£1.10 UK

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

MARVEL® COMICS MARVEL HOLIDAY SPECIAL

MARVEL® HOLIDAY SPECIAL

STOP THAT BEARDED MAN!

YEAH! NO ONE GIVES ME A *LUMP* OF *COAL* AND *LIVES*, BUB!

ARTHUR ADAMS © 11-91

MARVEL COMICS $2.25 US $2.70 CAN £1.10 UK

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT

AN HOUR AGO, JUST AS THE SNOW BEGAN FALLING, WILLIAM ROCKWOOD JR. WAS TUCKED INTO BED BY HIS PARENTS.

PROMISES OF SANTA CLAUS AND ALL THE PRESENTS HE WOULD BRING SENT HIM TOWARDS SLEEP.

WILLIE DREAMT OF SANTA, REINDEER, ELVES AND ALL THE MAGICAL, WONDERFUL THINGS THAT CHRISTMAS EVE MEANS TO 4-YEAR-OLD CHILDREN.

THEN THE BAD MEN CAME.

THEY PULLED HIM OUT OF HIS SAFE WARM BED INTO THE DARKNESS AND COLD WHENCE THEY CAME.

THEY WERE BIG AND STRONG. THEIR ROUGH HANDS WRAPPED AROUND HIS MOUTH BEFORE HE COULD SCREAM.

THE CAR THEY PUT HIM IN SMELLED BAD.

WILLIE WAS SCARED.

BEFORE THEY GOT TOO FAR AWAY FROM HIS HOUSE, WILLIE JUMPED OUT OF THE SMELLY CAR.

HE LANDED IN THE SOFT SNOW AND RAN INTO THE DARKNESS OF FOREST PARK.

COLD, ALONE AND BEING CHASED IN THE DARK--

--WILLIE KEEPS RUNNING.

HOWARD MACKIE	JOHN HEBERT	AL MILGROM	MICHAEL HEISLER	EVELYN STEIN
WRITER	PENCILER	INKER	LETTERER	COLORIST

THE ONLY THING THAT WILLIE'S NOT AFRAID OF IS THE DARK. NEVER HAS BEEN.

UNTIL TONIGHT ONLY GOOD THINGS WERE OUT IN THE DARKNESS.

GOOD PEOPLE LIKE HIS PARENTS AND SANTA CLAUS.

WILLIE IS BLIND.

COME ON! HE'S GOT TO BE HERE SOMEWHERE!

PLEASE, SANTA, DON'T LET THE BAD MEN GET ME!

I'VE BEEN GOOD ALL YEAR. YOU KNOW THAT!

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS GARBAGE!

CHRISTMAS EVE AND WE'RE CHASING A BLIND KID THROUGH SOME PARK IN QUEENS.

THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A SIMPLE SNATCH. WE DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TO ICE ANYBODY.

WE WERE IN AND OUT OF THE KID'S ROOM SO QUICK THAT WE DIDN'T EVEN CAUSE A DRAFT.

WE LEFT A NOTE. THE BRAT'S DADDY HAS THE BUCKS. TOMORROW WAS GOING TO BE A GOOD CHRISTMAS FOR US ALL.

SO CAN SOMEONE TELL ME HOW A FOUR-YEAR-OLD BLIND KID GOT AWAY FROM THE FIVE OF US?

WELL, RIC, HE GRABBED THE DOOR AND--

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT, ARN!

JUST FIND THE BRAT BEFORE HE FREEZES TO DEATH.

HE'S WORTH NOTHING BUT PRISON TO US IF HE DIES.

YOU FIND HIM AND FEEL LIKE SMACKING HIM AROUND-- FINE! BUT DON'T KILL HIM!

OH, SANTA, YOU JUST GOT TO HELP ME!

OOF!

YOU JUST GOT TO.

PLEASE SNIFF! SANTA.

THERE AIN'T NO SANTA, BRAT!

HE'S DEAD AND BURIED LIKE THE REST OF THE STIFFS IN THIS GRAVEYARD!

AND YOU'RE GONNA BE RIGHT NEXT TO HIM IF YOU GIVE ME ANY MORE TROUBLE!

SMAK

KEEP IT UP AND I'M GONNA GIVE YOU MORE THAN A CRUMMY BLOODY NOSE, RICH KID!

HUH? WHO?

TCHAK

NO MORE OF HIS BLOOD WILL BE SPILLED.

UGPH!

KRAK

WHO'S THERE?

PLEASE DON'T HURT ME MORE.

JINGLE TCHINK

I'LL BE GOOD, PROMISE.

JINGLE TCHINK

YOU WEARING BELLS, MISTER?

AND BOOTS?

HEY! YOU... YOU... YOU'RE--

--SANTA CLAUS!

YOU HEARD ME, SANTA. OH, THANK YOU. OH, THANK YOU!

WHAT IS THAT THING?
HOW DO I KNOW? SOME GUY THAT GOT HIS HOLIDAYS CONFUSED AND THINKS IT'S HALLOWEEN?
I DON'T REALLY CARE. HE AIN'T TAKIN' THE KID FROM US!
GET HIM!
ARE YOU GOING TO HELP ME, SANTA?
I'LL GET HIM. WE'LL SEE WHAT HE'S GOT TO SHOW US UNDERNEATH HIS COSTUME.
AACK!
MORE THAN YOU REALLY WANT TO SEE KILLER!
BUT SEE IT YOU WILL.

FOR IT IS TIME FOR YOU ALL TO LOOK INTO YOUR VERY SOULS.

TIME TO FEEL THE PAIN YOU HAVE INFLICTED ON THIS CHILD AND OTHERS.

TIME TO TASTE THE PENANCE STARE OF--

--THE GHOST RIDER, SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE.

MINUTES LATER...

P-PLEASE TAKE ME H-HOME NOW!

YES.

CAN WE RIDE IN YOUR SLEIGH?

S-S-SANTA, I'M C-COLD.

MOMMY AND DADDY SAY IT CAN GO REAL FAST. ARE THEY RIGHT?

BOY, I'M SO SLEEPY!

THROUGHOUT THE REST OF HIS YOUNG LIFE, WILLIE ALWAYS REMEMBERED THE NIGHT HE RODE IN SANTA'S MAGIC SLEIGH.

RUDOLPH LIGHTING THE WAY THROUGH THE STORM.

THE JINGLING OF THE BELLS AND THE RUMBLING OF THE REINDEER.

THEY MUST HAVE BEEN VERY HUNGRY.

RMMMMBBBLLE

WITH EACH ROOFTOP THEY FLEW ACROSS, WILLIE'S IMAGINATION SOARED.

HE NEVER THOUGHT REINDEER COULD MOVE SO QUICKLY.

AND THEN THEY WERE HOME.

THANK YOU, SANTA. THAT WAS FUN!

DON'T FORGET THE MILK AND COOKIES I LEFT OUT FOR YOU!

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR, SANTA!

WILLIE!!!

HE'S HERE, JONATHAN! OUR BABY'S SAFE!

MOMMY?

OH, WILLIE, WE WERE SO WORRIED.

WE FOUND YOUR ROOM EMPTY, AND THE NOTE...WE WERE SO FRIGHTENED THAT... THAT...

HOW DID YOU GET AWAY, SON?

IT WAS SANTA! HE *IS* REAL! JUST LIKE YOU ALWAYS SAID!

HE MADE THE BAD MEN GO AWAY!

NO, WILLIE, REALLY. WHO--?

JINGLE TCHINK JINGLE TCHINK

RRRMMMMBLE

VROOM

SANTA?

YEAH! AND IT SOUNDS LIKE THE REINDEER ARE STILL HUNGRY.

Merry Christmas to all

MARVEL COMICS

TM
©1991 MARVEL ENT GROUP INC.

$1.75 US
$2.15 CAN
19
NOV
CC 01317

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

GHOST RIDER®

AT THE HANDS OF MEPHISTO...

TEX

...SUICIDE IS BORN

WHEN INNOCENT BLOOD IS SPILLED, A SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE IS BORN, AND DANNY KETCH FINDS HIMSELF TRANSFORMED. STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

GHOST RIDER

THE LOWER EAST SIDE OF MANHATTAN...

DIVORCE PAPERS ARE DONE...

DONNA GOT THE KIDS.

DOESN'T MATTER. THEY LIKED ME LESS THAN *SHE* DID!

NO ONE TO TALK TO.

NO ONE WHO CARES.

WHY SHOULD ANYONE CARE? I DON'T!

HAVEN'T HELD A JOB IN A MONTH. NOBODY'LL HIRE ME ANYMORE. THEY CAN SEE HOW SCREWED UP I AM.

AND THEY'RE RIGHT. I'M A LOSER. ALWAYS HAVE BEEN. ALWAYS WILL BE.

BUT IT ENDS TONIGHT.

CLIK

I CAN'T!

thunk

BLAM

ptoom

AAHK! MY EYE!

WHY CAN'T I DO ONE THING RIGHT FOR A CHANGE?

THE LAST THING?

I JUST WANT THE STRENGTH TO KILL MYSELF.

I WANT TO DIE.

DO YOU REALLY, MR. DANIELS?

IF SO, PERHAPS WE CAN MAKE A DEAL!

MEANWHILE, ATOP THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE...

Stan Lee presents:

THE DEAL

NO!

PLEASE STOP! I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU WANT!

MACKIE/TEX/CHIANG/WRIGHT/CHASE/DEFALCO

I KNOW YOU WILL, TIM.

YOU ARE GOING TO TAKE A MESSAGE TO SOMEONE FOR ME--*ZODIAK.*

WHO?

YOU SELL DRUGS. ZODIAK SUPPLIES DRUGS. YOU ARE BOTH KILLERS IN YOUR OWN WAYS--

--BUT ZODIAK GOES TOO FAR. HE TAKES PLEASURE IN THE SPILLING OF BLOOD. AND HE DOESN'T CARE WHOSE BLOOD IS SPILLED.

A CHILD DIED BY HIS HANDS. I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN THIS. HE WILL PAY.

WHAT? I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

OKAY! OKAY! I CAN FIND HIM! I KNOW PEOPLE ON THE STREETS. I'LL TAKE YOUR MESSAGE--WHATEVER IT IS--TO HIM! BUT HE'LL *KILL* ME!

THERE ARE SOME FATES WORSE THAN DEATH, TIM.

BACK ON THE LOWER EAST SIDE...

THE DEAL IS REALLY QUITE SIMPLE.

I WILL GIVE YOU WHAT YOU WISH--THE COURAGE THAT YOU SEEK. THE WILL TO FIND A WAY TO TAKE YOUR OWN LIFE.

IN EXCHANGE FOR WHICH I WILL RECEIVE THE ARCANE ENERGIES THAT YOU HUMANS REFER TO AS A SOUL.

WHEN IT IS ALL THROUGH, YOUR SUFFERING ON EARTH WILL HAVE ENDED.

WAIT A MINUTE, MEPHISTO! I'M NOT STUPID. MY GRANDMOTHER ALWAYS TOLD ME THAT THE DEVIL WAS THE PRINCE OF LIARS. THERE HAS GOT TO BE A CATCH.

YOU SAY MY SUFFERING ON EARTH WILL END. BUT MY SUFFERING WITH YOU WILL JUST BEGIN. RIGHT?

MR. DANIELS, I AM OFFERING YOU A STRAIGHT EXCHANGE. I HAVE NO TIME TO REHASH OLD WIVES TALES AND ANCIENT FOLKLORE WHICH HAS NO BEARING ON THE DEAL BEFORE YOU.

DO YOU WISH TO PROCEED?

I--I GUESS SO. YES.

THE DEAL IS SEALED.

CHRIS DANIELS IS ENGULFED BY HELLFIRE.

FLESH IS SEARED AND REGENERATED IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.

IN THAT INSTANT HE LEARNS THAT THE SO-CALLED PAIN HE HAS EXPERIENCED IN HIS LIFE IS NOTHING.

AND THEN IT ENDS.

THAT WASN'T SO BAD, WAS IT, CHRIS? YOU JUST HAD A TASTE OF THE DEATH THAT YOU SEEK. WAS IT ALL YOU THOUGHT IT WOULD BE?

MY END OF THE DEAL IS COMPLETE. IN MANY WAYS YOU ARE A BETTER MAN THAN YOU WERE A FEW MOMENTS AGO. THE LIFE FORCE FLOWS THROUGH YOUR BODY WITH RENEWED VITALITY.

YOU MAY NOW KILL YOURSELF. OH, BUT THERE IS ONE STIPULATION--

WHAT DO YOU MEAN--? HEY, I FEEL GOOD! WHY DO I FEEL SO GOOD? WHAT DID YOU DO TO ME? WHAT'S THE CATCH?

DO NOT SOUND SO ANGRY, MR. DANIELS. THE *CATCH* IS THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE THING ON EARTH THAT CAN BRING ABOUT YOUR DEATH. OTHER THAN *THAT*, YOU ARE IMMORTAL. UNABLE TO DIE.

LIAR! YOU LIED TO ME! YOU--

I PREFER TO THINK OF IT AS A MATTER OF INTERPRETATION, BUT I GUESS YOU SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO YOUR GRANDMOTHER.

IF YOU INSIST ON BEING CROSS I WILL LEAVE YOU TO LEARN FOR YOURSELF ABOUT YOUR NEW LIFE.

But I will start you on your search. Seek out Ghost Rider. He will lead you to that which you desire. Enjoy. I know I will.

GHOST RIDER?

THE NEXT DAY IN CYPRESS HILLS...

NEVER THOUGHT THAT I'D BE WRITING IN A JOURNAL, BUT IT KIND OF FEELS GOOD.

DON'T HAVE ANYONE TO TALK TO ABOUT MY LIFE AS GHOST RIDER SINCE BARB DIED.

I WISH BLAZE HAD STUCK AROUND LONGER. HE REALLY HELPED ME GET MY HEAD TOGETHER. THAT IS, AFTER HE STOPPED TRYING TO *KILL* ME.

MADE ME REALIZE THAT I'VE BEEN AN OBSERVER TOO LONG. TIME TO GET INVOLVED IN THE THINGS THAT GHOST RIDER DOES. TAKE SOME CONTROL.

AND NOW ALL I'VE GOT TO DO IS HELP GHOST RIDER CLEAN HOUSE. BLACKOUT IS TAKEN CARE OF. AND ZODIAK'S GOTTA BE NEXT. SHOULDN'T BE TOO HARD.

YEAH! RIGHT!

TA-DA! PRESENTING THE NEW AND IMPROVED AUDRA KETCH! I'LL TEACH YOU HOW TO USE A GUN, DAN, SO YOU CAN PROTECT YOUR MOM FROM ALL THE MEN THAT ARE GOING TO BE HANGING AROUND!

OH, STACY, STOP!

STACE IS RIGHT, MOM. YOU LOOK TERRIFIC. QUICK, LET'S GET YOU INSIDE BEFORE ALL THE OTHER WOMEN ON THE BLOCK GET JEALOUS.

SMAK

OH, YOU TWO... NOW YOU'RE MAKING ME BLUSH. I'M GOING TO GO FIX US ALL SOME LUNCH.

THANKS, STACE, SHE NEEDED THIS. SHE HASN'T BEEN OUT MUCH SINCE BARB...

IT WAS FUN. MY MOTHER USED TO TAKE ME OUT SHOPPING AND TO THE BEAUTY PARLOR ALL THE TIME.

YOU KNOW, YOUR MOM IS A WOMAN, AND A PRETTY ONE, TOO!

THE LAST COUPLE OF WEEKS HAVE MADE ME REALIZE JUST HOW SPECIAL SHE IS. HOW SHE HASN'T BEEN ABLE TO LET GO OF BARB -- HOW NEITHER OF US WERE.

I'VE GOT TO START PAYING MORE ATTENTION TO HER.

YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THAT, KIDDO. AND SPEAKING OF PAYING MORE ATTENTION...

IF YOU HAVE ANY TO SPARE, HOW ABOUT THROWING SOME MY WAY?

YOU'VE GOT IT!

HEY! I KNOW JUST THE THING TO START US OFF ON THE ROAD TO MORE ATTENTION. I'VE GOT TICKETS TO A PREMIERE OF THE NEW KEVIN COSTNER MOVIE! WE CAN MAKE IT A GENUINE DATE.

GREAT! WHEN DO WE GO?

TONIGHT! I'M OFF DUTY AT EIGHT. YOU CAN PICK ME UP AT THE STATION.

OH.

PROBLEM?

STACE... I CAN'T TONIGHT. I'VE JUST GOT A COUPLE OF THINGS TO TAKE CARE OF AND THEN MAYBE WE CAN...

NO PROBLEM, DAN! WE'LL DO SOMETHING LATER IN THE WEEK.

GOT TO GO! SEE IF I CAN FIND SOMEONE TO PASS THE TICKETS OFF TO.

HEY! HOW ABOUT JACK? HE'S A BIG *COSTNER* FAN.

YEAH, RIGHT. I'LL THINK ABOUT IT!

OUCH. SHE WAS TICKED OFF.

CAN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT NOW. GOT TO-- HUNT FOR--

"--ZODIAK."

I HEAR YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR ME, TIMMY! SOMETHING ABOUT A MESSAGE...

Y-YES.

SHUT UP! I'M NOT THROUGH TALKING YET!

NOW I DON'T LIKE PEOPLE STICKING THEIR NOSES INTO MY BUSINESS. YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THEY DO?

shik

AAAGH

CHINATOWN ALWAYS WAS MY FAVORITE MOVIE, TIM.

NOW TELL ME--WHAT EVER POSSESSED YOU TO COME LOOKING FOR ME?

G-GHOST R-RIDER SENT ME! I KNEW YOU'D KILL ME, BUT HE SAID SOME THINGS WERE WORSE THAN DEATH!

HE WAS RIGHT, TIM.

shik shik shik

N-NO!

ELSEWHERE...

Creak

HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SO STUPID?

knok knok

WHO IS IT?♫

AKENE, IT'S CHRIS FROM ACROSS THE HALL. I WAS WONDERING IF I COULD BORROW SOME--

--CLOTHES.

NO PROBLEM. I HAVE PLENTY OF-- OH! YOU'RE SO... SO... NAKED.

3A

10

THERE WAS A FIRE IN MY APARTMENT LAST NIGHT. EVERYTHING IS GONE. I'LL REPAY YOU FOR ANYTHING, BUT COULD I STEP IN? I FEEL A LITTLE...

COME ON IN. YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY NOT HIDING ANY CONCEALED WEAPONS. I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DIG UP FOR YOU.

I DON'T THINK YOU'LL FIT INTO ANY OF MY OLD CLOTHES, BUT AN OLD BOYFRIEND OF MINE LEFT AN OUTFIT OF HIS HERE--BACK WHEN WE WERE DOING THE CLUB SCENE.

HEY, HAVE YOU BEEN WORKING OUT?

IT'S NOT MUCH BETTER THAN WHAT YOU HAVE ON, BUT AT LEAST YOU WON'T GET ARRESTED FOR INDECENT EXPOSURE UNTIL YOU CAN GET SOMETHING ELSE.

AAAGH! MY HEAD!

ARE YOU OKAY?

N-NEED A CAR! GOT TO DRIVE TO BROOKLYN.

I DON'T HAVE A CAR! THIS IS MANHATTAN! BUT...

BROOKLYN...

THIS FEELS GOOD. FEELS RIGHT.

WORKING *WITH* GHOST RIDER FOR A CHANGE.

THIS PORTABLE SHORT-WAVE RADIO SET ME BACK A COUPLE OF BUCKS, BUT I SHOULD BE ABLE TO MONITOR THE POLICE BANDS AND--.

CODE 3. CODE 3. ALL UNITS IN THE VICINITY OF BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC. ALL UNITS. POSSIBLE 187. SECURE SCENE AND AWAIT SPECIAL CRIMES UNIT.

POSSIBLE LINK TO ZODIAK MURDERS. POSSIBLE CODE 6 AD ON THE SCENE.

ATLANTIC AVE

THAT'S IT! HE'S KILLED SOMEONE AND THEY THINK HE MAY STILL BE AT THE SCENE.

TIME TO ACT!

TWO

ZODIAK IS MINE TONIGHT!

SORRY IF YOU'RE COLD, BUT I TOLD YOU MY BOYFRIEND WAS INTO SOME WEIRD STUFF.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT! JUST GET ME TO BROOKLYN!

JUST THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BRIDGE. ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO HEAD TO BROOKLYN DRESSED LIKE THAT?!

I'M NOT SURE ABOUT ANYTHING, BUT I'VE GOT TO GET THERE FAST!

COPS. I THINK I HAVE TO FOLLOW THEM. HOW DO I KNOW THIS? THIS IS ALL TOO WEIRD FOR ME!

STOP! STOP THE BIKE!

OKAY! JUST DON'T YELL IN MY EAR LIKE THAT. IT'S A REAL EASY WAY TO GET US BOTH KILLED

HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

YEAH, RIGHT! IT SHOULD BE THAT EASY.

SORRY, I'VE GOT TO DO THIS ALONE. I'LL RETURN THE BIKE.

COME BACK HERE! YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO--

KRASH

--RIDE. OH, MY BIKE.

WHAT AM I DOING?

WAIT. THAT DEVIL GUY. IF HE IS THE PRINCE OF LIARS-- THEN MAYBE HE LIED ABOUT EVERYTHING.

MAYBE I CAN KILL MYSELF. AND THAT BUS WILL DO THE TRICK.

SORRY ABOUT THE BIKE, KANENE.

HONK HONK

SCREEVRR

OOOMP

PIZ

KEESHH

THAT HURT. HURT A LOT. BUT I'M ALIVE. HE DIDN'T LIE. HE--

AARGH!

MY HEAD AGAIN!

I'VE GOT TO KEEP MOVING!

NEARBY...

NOT MUCH LEFT OF THIS ONE, HUH?

YEAH! THEY'RE GOING TO FIND PIECES OF HIM IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD FOR THE NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS.

IS IT MY FATE TO ARRIVE TOO LATE ALWAYS?

WHY AM I CURSED TO FOLLOW A TRAIL OF BLOOD?

ZODIAK HAS TO BE STOPPED. I FEEL AS THOUGH HE IS NEARBY WATCHING. WATCHING AND--

FRZZAT

tchink

YOU CANNOT HARM ME SO EASILY, ZODIAK--

--AND YOU CANNOT ESCAPE.

WHO SAYS I WANT TO?

L. I. R. R.

SO WHY DON'T YOU COME OVER AND LET'S YOU AND ME FINISH THIS OFF ONCE AND FOR ALL.?

UNLESS YOU'RE AFRAID?

DIDN'T THINK SO!

TONIGHT YOU FEEL PAIN. PAIN THE LIKES OF WHICH YOU HAVE NEVER--

NO!

YOU'RE GOING TO FEEL SOME PAIN, GHOST RIDER!

YOU WORK FOR MEPHISTO. I FOUND YOU. NOW DO WHAT YOU GOTTA DO!

KILL ME! KILL ME NOW!!

WHOOM

I WILL NOT!

I AM NOT A MERCHANT OF DEATH.

AND I AM THE SERVANT OF VENGEANCE, *NOT* OF MEPHISTO.

THOOM

KRASH

STAND IN THE WAY OF VENGEANCE AND YOU WILL ONLY EXPERIENCE PAIN.

HE LIES SO STILL. I DID NOT...

I SAID *KILL ME!*

KILL ME NOW!

A BEING OF SUCH STRENGTH AND POWER. WHY DOES HE WISH TO DIE?

KRAK

YOU'VE *GOT* TO DO IT! YOU'RE MY ONLY *HOPE.*

I CAN ONLY DIE BY YOUR HANDS. I KNOW IT! I CAN FEEL IT!

DO IT! DO IT! DO IT!

HIS CHAIN! THAT'S IT!

I'LL WRAP IT AROUND MY NECK AND--

NO.

GAHK

NO! DON'T PULL ME BACK!

LET ME DIE. WHY WON'T YOU LET ME DIE?

TCOOM

I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, OR WHY YOU WANT ME TO TAKE YOUR LIFE, BUT--

I WILL NOT HAVE YOUR BLOOD ON MY HANDS.

DO NOT STAND IN MY WAY AGAIN!

A COUPLE OF MORE SHOTS LIKE THAT LAST ONE SHOULD DO IT, GHOST RIDER. DO IT.

NO.

LEAVE ME.

HE'S FALLING TOWARDS THE EDGE--AND WILL NOT TRY TO SAVE HIMSELF.

I CANNOT BE THE CAUSE OF HIS DEMISE.

HIS EYES. THE EYES OF ONE ALREADY DEAD.

Thaaaaaaks

Krash

OOPS! LOOKS LIKE YOU LOST ONE, GHOST RIDER!

ZODIAK!

I WILL BREAK YOU!

TCHINK

VENGEANCE HAS WAITED FAR TOO LONG FOR YOU.

THIS TIME YOU ARE FLESH AND BLOOD. NO MORE *DOPPELGANGERS*. NO MORE *ESCAPES*.

NOW YOU WILL FEEL THE SEARING PAIN OF MY PENANCE STARE.

N-NO.

P-PLEASE! I DON'T WANT TO DIE!

ZODIAK MADE ME DO THIS!

HE HURT ME... RIPPED ME UP...SO MUCH BLOOD!

WHA-- *TIM!*

HELP ME. PLEASE HELP ME. I DON'T WANNA DIE!

WHA-- *TIM!*

I DON'T WANNA...

THERE IS NOTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU NOW. YOU CHOSE THE LIFE THAT LED TO THIS. YOUR DEATH AND OTHERS WILL BE AVENGED--

ENOUGH WITH THE VENGEANCE TALK!

HE MAY NOT WANT TO DIE, BUT I STILL DO!

ENOUGH!

LOOK AT HIM. HIS LIFE IS SLIPPING AWAY.

SEE THE PAIN. SEE THE COLD.

THIS IS THE FACE OF DEATH. THIS IS THE STENCH OF DEATH!

THIS IS WHAT YOU WANT? WHY?

BECAUSE IT WAS PART OF THE DEAL! IT'S MINE! YOU'VE GOT TO GIVE IT TO ME...

I WANT IT...

THIS THING FOR WHICH YOU ASK IS NOT MINE TO GIVE.

OH, IF YOU WON'T DO IT, I WILL--

--IF ONLY TO STOP HIS INCESSANT WHINING! AND THIS HERE LITTLE BABY SHOULD DO THE TRICK ON BOTH OF YOU.

YOU'VE HEARD ME SPEAK OF MY MASTERS BEFORE. WELL, THEY GAVE ME THIS LITTLE BABY TO TAKE CARE OF YOU ONCE AND FOR ALL.

THEY TELL ME IT'S A *GUARANTEED DEMON-KILLER.*

AND YOU'RE THE DEMON!

'BYE!

THE PAIN! I'M REALLY GOING TO DIEEEEEEE!

ARRRRRRR!

HURT, DIDN'T IT? OH, WELL-- NOT FOR LONG!

IT LOOKS LIKE I GAVE YOUR FRIEND, WHOEVER HE WAS, EXACTLY WHAT HE WANTED.

TIM GOT WHAT HE WANTED, TOO. HE JUST DIDN'T KNOW IT!

HAD TO USE HIM TO LURE YOU HERE SINCE YOU'VE GONE THROUGH ALL OF MY CURRENT DOPPELGANGERS.

SOMETIMES I WISH THAT SOMEONE WOULD OFF ME, TOO. AFTER EVERYTHING MY MASTERS HAVE PUT ME THROUGH, DEATH WOULD BE A WELCOME RELIEF.

BUT THAT WOULD BE THE EASY WAY OUT. LIVING WELL AND GETTING REVENGE IS SO MUCH MORE FUN.

OH, WELL, I'M RUNNING OFF AT THE MOUTH AGAIN. TIME TO FINISH YOU OFF, BEFORE SOMEONE FINISHES ME.

THEY LIED...

WHAT?
THEY LIED.
WHO? WHO LIED?
YOUR MASTERS.
MY MASTERS? ABOUT WHAT?
THE GUN.

GHOST RIDER

I'M OUT OF HERE!

UNGH!
tchink

HE FELL INTO THE SUBWAY. I MUST STOP HIM.
SUBWAY

GHOST RIDER! GET BACK HERE! WE'RE NOT THROUGH YET!

NEXT ISSUE:
THE ORIGIN OF ZODIAK AND A FINAL SHOWDOWN!

MARVEL COMICS

GHOST RIDER®

TM
© 1991 MARVEL ENT GROUP INC

$1.75 US
$2.15 CAN
20
DEC
CC 01317

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

DON'T KILL ZODIAK, KILL ME!

R. WAGNER

WHEN INNOCENT BLOOD IS SPILLED, A SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE IS BORN, AND DANNY KETCH FINDS HIMSELF TRANSFORMED. STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

GHOST RIDER

SIGN OF DEATH

RELEASE THE WOMAN, ZODIAK!

HOWARD MACKIE • WRITER
RON WAGNER • GUEST PENCILER
TEX • INKER
JANICE CHIANG • LETTERER
GREG WRIGHT • COLORIST
BOBBIE CHASE • EDITOR
TOM DeFALCO • EDITOR IN CHIEF

I DON'T *THINK* SO, *GHOST RIDER*. SHE'S MY BEST CHANCE OUT OF THIS HOLE IN THE GROUND.

AND SINCE I CAN'T SEEM TO KILL *YOU*-- I PLAN ON ESCAPING TO TRY *AGAIN*.

TCHINK

GHOST RIDER IS STILL *PLAYING* WITH THE GREEN GUY.

LOOKS LIKE THE ONLY WAY TO MAKE HIM PAY OFF ON THE DEAL I MADE WITH MEPHISTO* IS TO TAKE CARE OF ZODIAK MYSELF.

*LAST ISSUE. --BOBBIE

THEN MAYBE SKULL-FACE WILL KILL ME.

YO, ZODIAK!

AH, IF IT ISN'T THE GUY WITH THE *DEATH WISH*. I THINK I'LL CALL YOU *SUICIDE!*

LET ME SEE IF I CAN HELP YOU ALONG TO YOUR *FINAL GOAL*--

Hugph!

RRRRIP

--WITH MY *LION CLAWS!*

THIS IS IT...WHAT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR...*DEATH*...IT HURTS SO MUCH.... THE *PAIN*...

IT'S GOING AWAY!

YOU BLEW IT! I'M STILL ALIVE AND IT HURTS!

REALLY? TOO BAD. BUT PLEASE--

--LET ME TRY AGAIN!

RRRRR

RRRRR

RRRRR

YES.

PLEASE.

SMAK

THUMP

THUD

THUM

LET THIS BE IT.

ANOTHER DEATH FOR WHICH YOU MUST PAY.

I HAVEN'T PAID FOR *ANYTHING* IN YEARS--

--AND I'M NOT ABOUT TO START NOW!

BESIDES-- HE ASKED FOR IT!

NO.

HE CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO ESCAPE MY WRATH AS HE HAS BEFORE.

tchink

KUNK

HIS KILLING SPREE ENDS TONIGHT.

HE WILL LEARN FEAR.

HE WILL LEARN PAIN.

IT--

--HURTS--

--SO MUCH!

OMIGOD!

WE NEED AN *AMBULANCE* HERE. *NOW!*

NO!

OKAY, BUDDY. TAKE IT EASY. HELP IS ON THE WAY! JUST KEEP YOUR HANDS WHERE I--

DON'T *WANT* HELP--

OOPH!

JUST WANT TO *DIE.*

VOTE BIASI

ALL I WANT IS TO DIE.

DIE!

DIE!

BUT I HAD TO GO AND MAKE A DEAL WITH THIS *MEPHISTO* GUY--

--AND I GOT THE SHORT END OF THE STICK.

SCREWED IT UP LIKE EVERYTHING ELSE IN MY LIFE.

HE GAVE ME THE *GUTS* TO KILL MYSELF. BUT NOW I CAN'T BE *HURT*.

GHOST RIDER IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT. BUT WHAT?

AND HOW DO I FIND *HIM*?

MAN, I WANT TO GET ONE OF THESE!

TSS! IT'S *HOT*!

IT'S HOT ALL RIGHT!

"AND SO IS IT S OWNER."

YOU ARE PERSISTENT!

HE WILL NOT ESCAPE THIS TIME.

LET'S SEE IF MY *SCORPION STING* CAN SLOW YOU DOWN.

NO ESCAPE.

ARGH!

NO--

YOU REALLY ARE GETTING ON MY NERVES.

--ESCAPE.

ESCAPE

NO ESCAPE--

THE SUBWAY IS NOT MY PREFERRED MODE OF TRAVEL.

SO--

--I GUESS THIS IS MY STOP.

I'M SURE WE'LL RUN INTO EACH OTHER SOMETIME.

NOOO!

NO ESCAPE!

GHOST RIDER IS BOUND TO SHOW UP EVENTUALLY FOR HIS BIKE!

SO, I'LL JUST SIT AND WAIT.

ALL STUF

SARGE! THE THING'S STARTIN' UP BY ITSELF! WHAT'LL I DO?

3:00 PM 6:00

KRAIGER'S

K-O

RRRRRRRRR

YEAH! RIGHT!

STOP IT!

RRRRRRRRR

IT'S TRYING TO GET TO *HIM*!

RRR

WELL, GO AHEAD--

--BECAUSE I'M COMING ALONG FOR THE RIDE!

RRRRRRRR

THERE IS NO ESCAPE, ZODIAK!

STOP SAYING THAT! IT'S REALLY IRRITATING ME!

"NO ESCAPE."

"VENGEANCE MUST BE SERVED!"

WHY DON'T YOU EXPAND YOUR VOCABULARY--

--AND LEAVE ME ALONE?!

ZZZZT

WHAT ARE YOU?

I AM THE SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE, KILLER!

AND IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO PAY FOR ALL THE BLOOD THAT YOU HAVE SPILLED!

OH! NO YOU DON'T!

I'M NOT GOING TO TAKE ALL THE BLAME!

THEY MADE ME INTO WHAT I AM!

IT'S THEIR FAULT!

SO TAKE ALL THIS VENGEANCE GARBAGE--

--AND WASH IT DOWN THE SEWER WITH THE REST OF YOUR...

WHOOOSH

NO ESCAPE!

NO--

***

OH, WELL--

--I GUESS OLD FLAMEHEAD WASN'T WATERPROOF AFTER ALL.

TOO BAD!

FLII!

SSSSS

HUH?

THING IS STILL--

NO ESCAPE!

MEANWHILE...

IF I LET GO I'D MAKE A NICE *SPLATTER* ON THE PAVEMENT.

NAH! MEPHISTO WOULDN'T MAKE IT *THAT* EASY FOR ME!

LOOKS LIKE I'M GOING TO HAVE TO PLAY *HERO* IN ORDER TO FIND THE THING THAT CAN KILL ME.

THAT, MORE THAN THE REST OF THIS GARBAGE, KILLS ME!

I HAVE TO *HELP* PEOPLE.

THE SAME PEOPLE WHO, A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO, WOULDN'T HAVE THOUGHT TWICE ABOUT HELPING *ME!*

I CAN'T STAND PEOPLE.

I CAN'T STAND *MYSELF.*

WE SHOULD ALL JUST DIE AND BE PUT OUT OF OUR MISERY!

WOOM

FWOOM

LOOKS LIKE I'M HERE!

"WONDER WHAT'S GOING ON DOWN THERE?"

IT'S NOT MY FAULT!

ZZZATT

THEY MAKE ME DO IT!

I CAN'T GET THEM OUT OF MY--

--HEAD!

KIND OF HARD TO GET A FIX ON ANY *TWO* FOR YOUR PENANCE STARE, ISN'T IT?

THAT'S *OKAY!*

I'D JUST AS SOON *PASS!*

MY HEAD IS SCREWED UP ENOUGH AS IT IS!

tchunk

NO ESCAPE!

YEAH... YEAH... YEAH!

I KNOW! I KNOW!

ENTER THE DRAGON

UCE LEE

BUT I'M STILL GOING TO KEEP TRYING!

ENTER THE DRAGON BRUCE LEE

TEMPLE GARDEN

MON SIN

GET OUT OF MY WAY!

EXIT

HEY!

YOU'RE DEAD MEAT, MAN!

HOOOOOAAAAH!

GIVE ME A BREAK!

NEVER MIND! JUST GIVE ME YOUR THROAT!

RRRIPP

BINGO!

MATHE

DRAGON LEE

ENTER THE DRAGON BRUCE LEE

TIME TO CATCH A FLICK!

PREFERABLY IT WILL BE THE ONE WITH MY LIFE FLASHING BEFORE MY EYES!

BRUCE LEE

35

THERE IS NO ESCAPE, ZODIAK.

SHUT UP ALREADY!

LET'S MAKE A DEAL. OKAY?

YOU LET ME *ESCAPE*--

--EVEN THOUGH THERE IS *NONE*--

--AND I WON'T HAVE TO MIX THE BLOOD OF THESE TWO WITH THE COLA, POPCORN, AND GUMMY BALLS AT YOUR FEET!

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

NO ESCAPE.

THOUGHT SO.

LET'S TRY A DIFFERENT TACTIC.

I'LL TELL YOU A STORY AND PROVE TO YOU THAT I'M JUST AS MUCH A VICTIM AS ANYBODY!

ONCE UPON A TIME, THERE WAS A MAN NAMED *NORMAN HARRISON*. HE WAS JUST YOUR ORDINARY JOE TRYING TO EARN A BUCK IN THE BIG APPLE.

HE WAS *ME*.

"HE RAN AN *OCCULT BOOKSTORE* IN THE VILLAGE AND DID SOME *ASTROLOGICAL CHARTS* ON THE SIDE.

"THEN ONE DAY TWELVE HONEST-TO-GOODNESS *DEMON TYPES* SHOWED UP AT HIS DOOR.

"NORMAN NEVER REALLY BELIEVED IN THE STUFF HE PEDDLED, BUT THERE IT WAS.

"THEY OFFERED HIM *POWER* BEYOND HIS WILDEST DREAMS.

"NORMAN ACCEPTED.

"*BIG MISTAKE.*"

AND HERE I AM, A VICTIM OF THE VILE DEMONS THAT HAVE GRAFTED PART OF THEMSELVES TO ME.

I'M THEIR *LINK* TO EARTH. THEIR *PUPPET*.

THEIR *KILLER*.

TRUE. BUT NOT ENTIRELY OUT OF CHOICE.

LOOK, I LET THE KIDS GO. WHAT DO YOU SAY?

NO--

DON'T SAY IT!

JUST DON'T SAY IT!

BECAUSE I AM ESCAPING. NO MATTER WHAT I HAVE TO DO!

HELLO, MISSY!

WHAT DO YOU SAY WE GO FOR A RIDE?

DON'T HURT ME! DON'T HURT MY BABY!

OOH! RUSH HOUR CAN BE MURDER! DON'T YOU THINK?

SURPRISE! SURPRISE!

OH, WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE?

MONEY

THIS IS WHERE WE GET OUT, MISSY!

P-PLEASE DON'T HURT MY *B-BABY!*

IT'S REALLY NOT UP TO *ME!* IT'S ALL IN THE HANDS OF THE GHOST RIDER!

NOW, UNLESS YOU WANT IT *ALL* TO BE *IN* MY HANDS, GHOST RIDER...

.THIS IS *RIDICULOUS!* GHOST RIDER IS JUST STANDING THERE LETTING ZODIAK MAKE HIM LOOK BAD.

I'VE HAD ENOUGH! IT'S TIME *SOMEBODY* DIED AROUND HERE!

OOOPH!

IT LOOKS LIKE *YOU'RE* ELECTED, ZODIAK!

HELP!

PLEASE HELP ME!

WHAT DO I CARE? PROBABLY DO THE KID A *FAVOR*, LETTING THEM BOTH *DIE*.

OOB

SAVE THEM BOTH A LOT OF *PAIN*.

T-THANK YOU.

HOW SWEET!

NOW I GET TO KILL YOU BOTH WITH THE ARROWS OF SAGITAR--

TCHINK SNAP

ARRGH!

BIG DEAL! YOU BROKE MY ARM. NOW WHAT?

YOUR PENANCE STARE DOESN'T WORK. YOU WON'T KILL ME... SO I GUESS THERE IS ESCAPE AFTER ALL.

WHAT?!

YOU WON'T KILL HIM? AFTER ALL HE'S DONE?

I WILL NOT TAKE A *HUMAN* LIFE.

WELL--

--I DON'T HAVE THE SAME QUALMS!

DEATH.

WHY MUST I BE SURROUNDED BY DEATH AND BLOOD?

WHAT PURPOSE DOES IT ALL SERVE?

WHAT PURPOSE DO I SERVE?

NO.

NOT--

--AGAIN!

MEPHISTO IS REALLY TICKING ME OFF!

WELL *HE'S* DEAD!

REALLY, REALLY, *REALLY* DEAD! BUT LET'S MAKE SURE. I'VE HAD SOME EXPERIENCE WITH THIS COMING BACK FROM THE DEAD STUFF!

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

THAT SHOULD DO HIM.

ASHES TO ASHES AND ALL THAT STUFF!

WOOOOOP

WOOOOOP

YOU HAVE SAVED LIVES TODAY. YOU WILL BE CALLED A HERO.

I JUST WANT TO DIE! THERE IS NOTHING HEROIC ABOUT ME!

PERHAPS NOT. YOU CANNOT BE TURNED INTO SOMETHING THAT YOU ARE NOT.

I AM NOT A MURDERER. ZODIAK WAS.

BUT WE CANNOT ESCAPE OUR *FATES*.

ESPECIALLY WHEN WE DON'T KNOW *WHAT* THEY ARE!

I JUST WANT TO DIE.

HERO SAVES PREGNANT WOMAN

GHOST RIDER COP KILLER SUSPECTED OF AIDING ZODIAK KILLER, BOTH ESCAPE, POLICE DRAGNET INTENSIFIES

WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF HEROES, CHRIS DANIELS!

NOT ALL OF US ARE SO LUCKY!

KILLER

ONE DOWN AND TWO TO GO.

NEXT: *DEATHWATCH!*

MARVEL COMICS

GHOST RIDER®

SNOWBLINDED!

© 1991 MARVEL ENT GROUP INC

$1.75 US
$2.15 CAN
21
JAN
01317
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

QUESADA · PALMIOTTI

WHEN INNOCENT BLOOD IS SPILLED, A SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE IS BORN, AND DANNY KETCH FINDS HIMSELF TRANSFORMED. STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

GHOST RIDER

TWO DISTINCTIVE INDIVIDUALS.

BOTH OPERATE IN THE SHADOWS OF THE NIGHT.

BOTH ARE--

BAD TO THE BONE!

HOWARD MACKIE • WRITER
RON WAGNER • GUEST ARTIST
JANICE CHIANG • LETTERER
GREGORY WRIGHT • COLORIST
BOBBIE CHASE • EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO • EDITOR IN CHIEF

INKERS • MICHAEL BAIR • VINCE EVANS • ARIANE LENSHOEK • JIMMY PALMIOTTI • MARK TEXEIRA

OFTEN THEY MUST WAIT IN THE SHADOWS.

OBSERVERS OF THE VIOLENCE OF OTHERS.

THE WAITING IS WHAT THEY HATE MOST.

THESE ARE INDIVIDUALS OF ACTION.

LOW RATES

THEY ARE NOT CONTENT IN THE WATCHING.

BUT SOMETIMES THEY MUST WATCH AND WAIT IN ORDER TO ACT.

AND WHEN INNOCENT BLOOD HAS BEEN SPILLED--

OR A CRIME HAS BEEN COMMITTED--

--THEN THEY ACT--

--WITH A VENGEANCE.

AND ONCE IN ACTION--

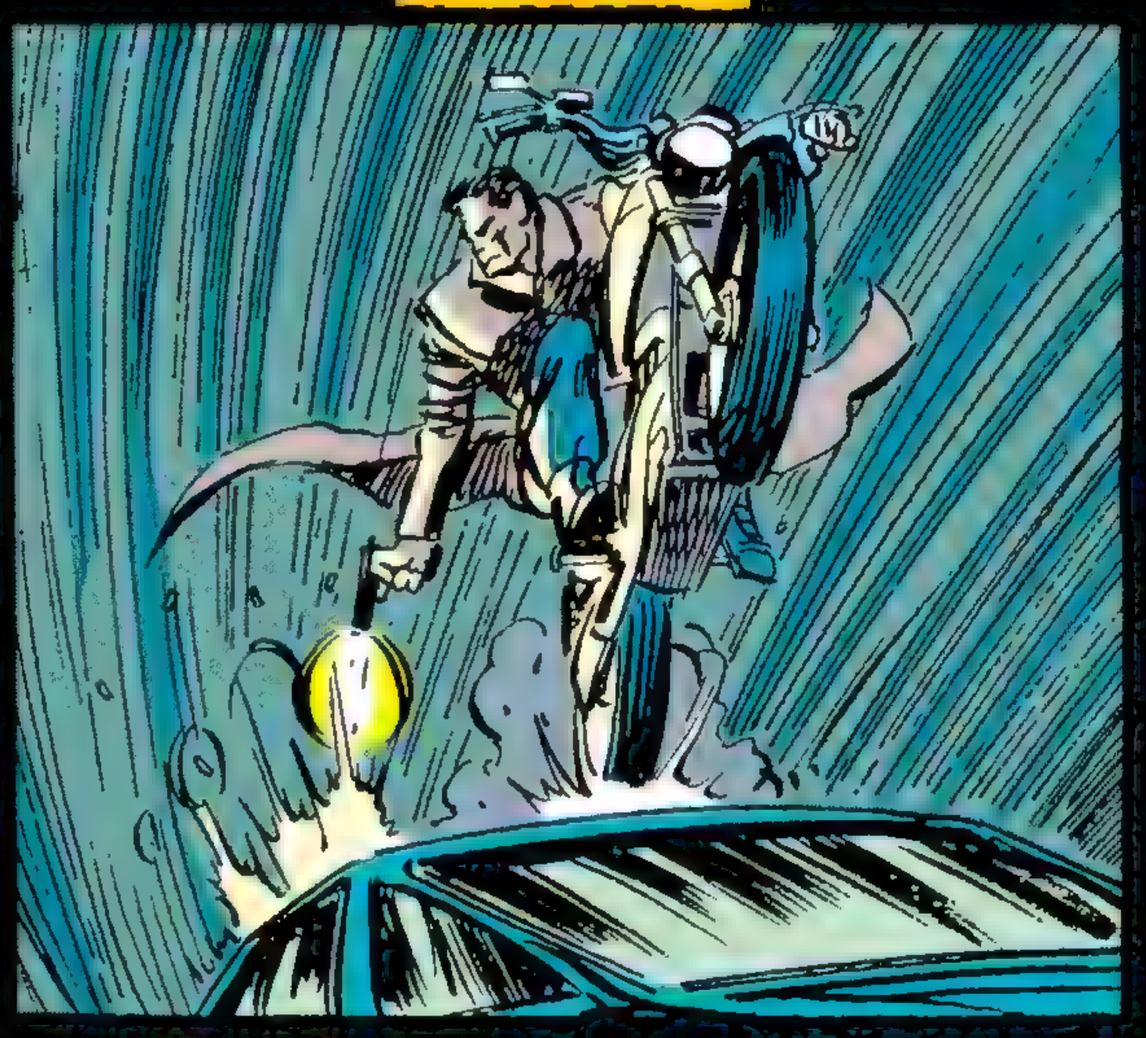
--THEY ALLOW NOTHING TO GET IN THEIR WAY.

BOOZE, BIKES, & BABES

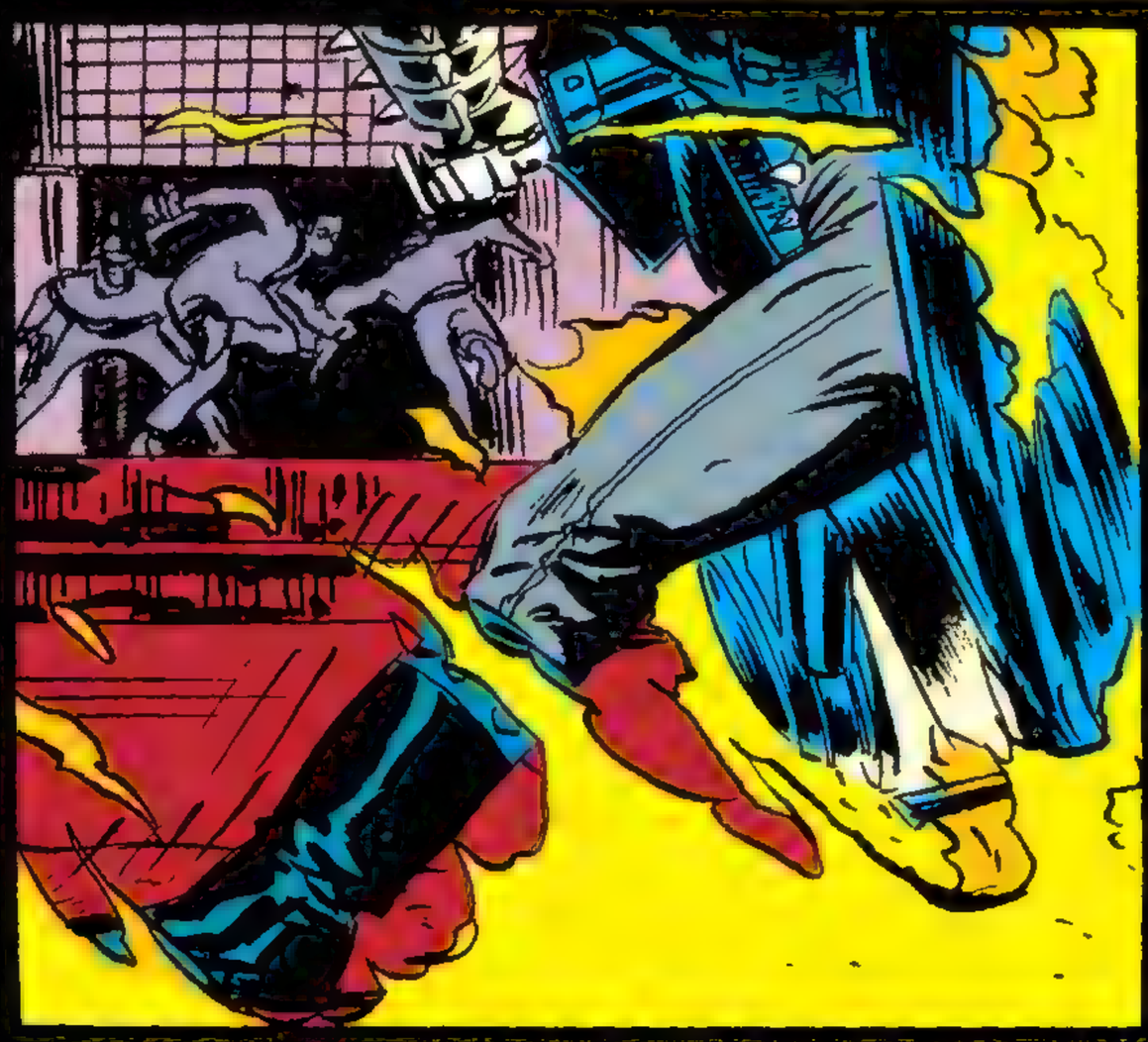
BOTH ARE FOCUSED ON A SINGLE PURPOSE.

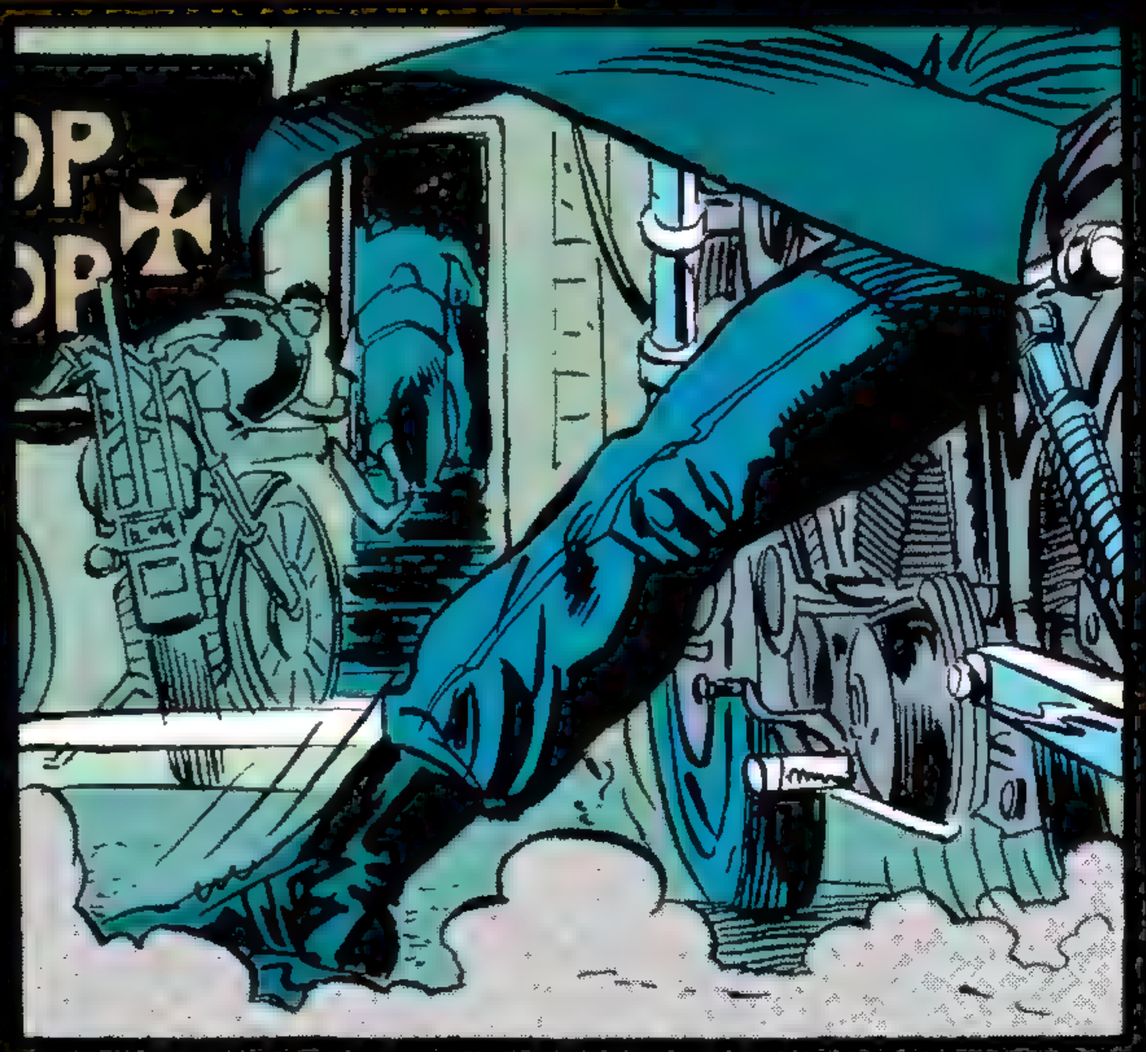
VENGEANCE.

JUSTICE.



THOUGH THE FORCES EACH SERVES DIFFERS.





NEITHER WOULD APPROVE OF THE OTHER'S METHODS.

AND WILL ONE DAY SOON MEET AS BITTER ENEMIES.

ONE IS THE GHOST RIDER, THE SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE.

THE OTHER IS LIEUTENANT MICHAEL BADILINO, OF THE N.Y.P.D.

HEROES?

VILLAINS?

WHERE IS THE LINE DRAWN?

LATER THAT NIGHT...

POW POW K-POW POW K-POW THAK SMACK

ZING

LIEUTENANT BADILINO!

POW POW K-POW

BADILINO!

YES, CAPTAIN DOLAN.

I WANTED YOU IN MY OFFICE AN HOUR AGO, *LIEUTENANT*.

JUST TAKING SOME TARGET PRACTICE WITH MY MEN. YOU SHOULD TRY IT SOMETIME.

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT, LIEUTENANT.

I'VE BEEN SPENDING *MY* NIGHT FIELDING PHONE CALLS REGARDING *YOUR* ACTIONS IN *MY* PRECINCT.

HALF A DOZEN MEN IN THE HOSPITAL. NOT TO MENTION THAT GUY IN THE CAR THAT YOU SHOT WILL PROBABLY DIE BEFORE MORNING.

THE BAR OWNER AND TWO DOZEN WITNESSES SAY UNREASONABLE FORCE WAS USED. AND FOR *WHAT*?

I SAID I *DON'T* WANT TO HEAR IT!

THEY'RE LYING.

LISTEN! I KNOW THE MAYOR THINKS YOU AND YOUR MEN ARE SOME SORT OF HOTSHOTS. SERVED IN THE *SPECIAL FORCES*... THAT MEANS *SPIT* TO ME. YOU'RE A *COP*. YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO UPHOLD THE LAW--NOT *BREAK* IT!

THE MAYOR HAS APPOINTED MY TASK FORCE TO--

THAT'S *ANOTHER* THING! IF THIS WAS AN OFFICIAL ACTION WHY DID YOU GO IN ALONE? WHERE WERE THE REST OF YOUR HOTSHOTS?

THIS WAS A SIMPLE RECON MISSION, MY MEN WERE PERFORMING THEIR OWN DUTIES. THE MAYOR ASSIGNED ME THE TASK OF BRINGING ***GHOST RIDER*** IN. *YOUR* MEN COULDN'T DO IT.

SO PLEASE DON'T GET IN MY WAY.

THAT'S THE NEW BREED OF COP?

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THE FORCE? AND THE MAYOR CONDONES IT.

WHAT A TIME FOR ***STACY*** TO COME ON THE JOB.

WASN'T WHAT I HAD IN MIND FOR MY ONLY DAUGHTER, BUT--

--AT LEAST SHE'S GOT ***DAN*** TO KEEP HER BALANCED. HE'S A GOOD KID.

KBLAM

LATER THAT NIGHT, IN CYPRESS HILLS CEMETERY...

AMONGST THE GRANITE AND MARBLE TOMBSTONES A TRANSFORMATION TAKES PLACE.

THE EYES OF THE DEAD BEAR THE ONLY WITNESS AS HELLFIRE IS REPLACED BY MUSCLE AND FLESH.

UNTIL IN THE PLACE OF GHOST RIDER SITS DAN KETCH.

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

I'M LATE! I'VE GOT TO MEET STACY IN FRONT OF THE POLICE STATION.

I HAVEN'T HAD MUCH TIME FOR HER SINCE I DECIDED TO FULLY UTILIZE GHOST RIDER.

RIGHT NOW I'M SPENDING ALL MY TIME TRYING TO CLEAR UP OLD BUSINESS.

AND BRINGING DOWN DEATHWATCH AND *SNOWBLIND* IS MY TOP PRIORITY.

THOSE WERE SNOWBLIND'S MEN THAT I HIT AT THE CUSTOMS WAREHOUSE TONIGHT.

NYPD NYPD

I GUESS GHOST RIDER'S STRONG-ARM TACTICS PAY OFF SOMETIMES.

PSST! HEY, BUDDY--

HUK

YOUR CASH AND THE JACKET NOW!

NOPE.

GAAK!

SORRY MOVE, BOY. YOU'RE DEAD.

FREEZE.

MUGGING SOMEONE IN FRONT OF THE POLICE STATION? *DUMB* MOVE.

YOU'RE UNDER ARREST.

SNAP

AIEEEE! MY ARM!

DANT YOU OKAY?

EVERYTHING IS UNDER CONTROL, STACY, THANKS TO ONE OF YOUR FELLOW OFFICERS. HE *IS* A COP...

...ISN'T HE?

STACY, RIGHT? CAPTAIN DOLAN'S DAUGHTER.

WELCOME TO THE FORCE.

BADILINO.

NICE MOVES YOU GOT THERE, KID!

HAVE FUN. I'LL TAKE CARE OF THESE TWO.

THANKS. YOU'VE GOT SOME GOOD ONES YOURSELF.

I DON'T TRUST HIM.

LIEUTENANT?

FIND SOME UNIFORM TO BOOK THESE TWO.

WE'VE GOT TO HIT THE STREETS.

"AND KEEP HITTING THEM HARD--

"--UNTIL WE TURN UP SOMETHING ON GHOST RIDER.

"WE'RE CLOSE. I CAN FEEL IT IN MY BONES.

"I WANT EVERY LOW LIFE IN TOWN TO KNOW OUR FACES.

"OUR METHODS.

"I WANT THEM TO BE MORE AFRAID OF US THAN GHOST RIDER.

"THEN THEY'LL DROP A QUARTER ON HIM."

LATER THAT NIGHT...

IT'S SO EARLY, DAN. I WAS HOPING WE'D GET TO SPEND MORE TIME TOGETHER.

I KNOW, STACE, BUT I'M BEAT.

AND WE BOTH HAVE JOBS TO GET TO TOMORROW.

I'LL GIVE YOU A CALL.

YEAH. *RIGHT.*

HOW LONG AM I GOING TO BE ABLE TO KEEP BLOWING STACY OFF LIKE THIS?

EVEN *HER* UNDERSTANDING HAS TO HAVE ITS *LIMITS.*

BUT I CAN'T WORRY ABOUT *THAT* NOW.

I'VE GOT TO BRING *SNOWBLIND* DOWN...

...AND THEN *DEATHWATCH.*

AULK'S

CHASE'S

KEEP *RIDING.*

KEEP *LOOKING.*

FOR *WHAT?* AND *WHERE?* I'M NO *DETECTIVE.*

WHAT'RE WE LOOKING FOR, LIEUTENANT?

SINCE WHEN DO YOU NEED TO KNOW *WHY* YOU'RE BUSTING HEADS, STERN?

YOU KNOW IT'S NOT *THAT*. YOU POINT AND I'M *THERE*.

WE JUST HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO TURN UP A THING ON THIS GHOST RIDER.

NONE OF THE LOWLIFES KNOW WHERE HE HANGS.

HE MIGHT AS WELL BE A *REAL* GHOST.

YEAH, "WHO YOU GONNA 'CALL...?"

I'VE BEEN COMING UP WITH MORE ON THIS *DRUG DEALER*-- SNOWBLIND.

YOU WANT TO TURN IT OVER TO THE NARCS?

YEAH! RIGHT!

IT'S JUST THAT SOME OF THE SLIME I SQUEEZED LED ME TO BELIEVE THAT GHOST RIDER HAS GOT IT *BAD* FOR THIS DEALER.

I THINK IT'S TIME WE MOVED UP THE SLIME LADDER. LET'S FIND THIS SNOWBLIND.

MIGHT BE SOMETHING FOR US TO KEEP IN MIND.

GOOD WORK, STERN.

I NEED HELP.

GHOST RIDER IS GETTING TOO CLOSE TO ME, AND NOW I'VE GOT THESE COPS SNIFFING AROUND.

NO. I DON'T HAVE ALL OF THE COPS ON MY PAYROLL.

THESE GUYS ARE A SPECIAL TASK FORCE. THEY'RE UNTOUCHABLE. I NEED *YOUR* HELP.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "NO"? WE HAD A DEAL! I GAVE YOU THE DEAD COP SO YOU COULD TURN UP THE HEAT.

YEAH.

YEAH.

OKAY, YOU *BETTER* GET BACK TO ME BUT *QUICK*.

I'M AFRAID THAT MY *SIGHT-IMPAIRED* ASSOCIATE IS QUICKLY BECOMING A LIABILITY.

IT MAY BE TIME TO *ELIMINATE* HIM.

PERHAPS ALL MY PROBLEMS CAN BE RESOLVED IN ONE FELL SWOOP.

WHAT DO *YOU* THINK, MY DEAR?

I'LL DO MY BEST, *DEATHWATCH.*

I EXPECT NOTHING LESS, *MS. WEI.*

...THE POLICE ARE STILL ATTEMPTING TO LOCATE THE ALLEGED COP KILLER, GHOST RIDER.

YOU'LL REMEMBER THAT IT WAS JUST LAST MONTH THAT GHOST RIDER WAS LINKED TO THE DEATH OF A HIGHLY DECORATED VETERAN OF THE POLICE FORCE, CAPTAIN DWIGHT JONES.

THE MAYOR HAS ANNOUNCED THE FORMATION OF A SPECIAL TASK FORCE TO APPREHEND THE VIGILANTE KILLER. IS IT TOO LITTLE TOO LATE?

HERE WE HAVE A SHOT OF THE LATEST CARNAGE THAT GHOST RIDER HAS BEEN LINKED TO--

SORRY. SEEMS THAT WE HAVE THE WRONG CLIP IN THERE. MORE ON THIS STORY LATER. FRANK.

WHAT?

THAT'S *HIM!*

THAT'S *HIM!*

I KNOW WHERE *THAT* WAREHOUSE IS!

DANIEL?

WHERE ARE YOU GOING? I THOUGHT YOU WERE *ILL!* YOU DIDN'T EVEN GO TO *WORK* TODAY.

I GOT *BETTER!*

ELSEWHERE...

LIEUTENANT, YOU *WANT* TO SEE THIS.

THINGS LIKE THIS DON'T JUST FALL INTO YOUR LAP EVERY DAY.

ESPECIALLY NOT FROM THE NIGHTLY NEWS.

LOCATION?

OF COURSE.

AT A WAREHOUSE IN BROOKLYN...

IT'S THE GHOST RIDER! WHATTA' WE DO?

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

ALWAYS THEIR KIND TRIES TO STOP ME.

BRAAAP

ALWAYS THEY FAIL.

SNOWBLIND!

DRUG DEALER.

POISON PEDDLER.

CHILD KILLER.

IT IS TIME FOR ALL SCORES TO BE SETTLED.

VENGEANCE FOR YOU, AND ALL YOUR KIND, IS AT HAND.

ARMED GUARDS.

STEEL DOORS.

I WILL NOT BE STOPPED.

VENGEANCE WILL NOT BE DENIED.

YOU CANNOT CLOAK YOUR BLACK DEEDS WITH THIS WHITENESS.

I WILL FIND YOU AS I DID IN THE PAST. *

*SEE GHOST RIDER #13.
--BOBBIE

NOT THIS TIME, GHOST RIDER.

SHRA-CRAK

AFTER OUR LAST ENCOUNTER I WAS FORCED TO RE-EVALUATE THE POWERS THAT HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO ME.

I LEARNED TO TURN A PART OF MY *WHITE FIELD* IN ON MYSELF. IT NOW ENVELOPS ME TIGHTER THAN IT EVER DID BEFORE.

IT LOOKS LIKE THE TIME I SPENT FIGURING IT OUT HAS PAID OFF--

--BECAUSE YOU'RE AS *BLIND* IN MY WHITE FIELD AS *ANYONE* ELSE.

OUTSIDE, BADILINO AND HIS MEN ARRIVE.

NO WORDS ARE EXCHANGED AMONGST THESE COMBAT VETERANS.

NONE ARE NEEDED.

A HAND SIGNAL IS ALL IT TAKES FOR THEM TO TAKE UP THEIR POSITIONS.

FADING INTO THE SHADOWS, THEY AWAIT A FURTHER SIGNAL FROM LIEUTENANT BADILINO.

AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE THEY WILL ALL SPRING INTO ACTION.

BUT WHATEVER ELSE THEY DO TONIGHT, THEY ALL ARE CERTAIN OF ONE THING.

THE GHOST RIDER IS BADALINO'S.

I DON'T *WANT* THIS FIGHT, GHOST RIDER.

ALL I WANT IS TO WALK OUT OF HERE, AND TO HAVE YOUR WORD THAT YOU WON'T FOLLOW.

WE'VE BOTH BEEN SET UP BY *DEATHWATCH*. HE'S HOPING THAT WE'LL KILL *EACH OTHER*.

LET ME GO, AND I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM FOR *BOTH* OF US.

NEVER.

TCHUNK

YOU WANT TO WATCH THAT TEMPER OF YOURS--

--YOU NEVER KNOW *WHAT* YOU MIGHT HIT WHEN YOU STRIKE OUT *BLINDLY* LIKE THAT!

I DON'T THINK YOU'VE HAD THE PLEASURE. THIS IS MY PERSONAL SECRETARY, *MS. TOFIELD*.

-GASP!- WHAT... ARE... DOING? WHY?

SORRY, FRANCESCA, YOU'VE SERVED ME WELL, BUT I HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES.

I ASSURE YOU, GHOST RIDER, SHE IS QUITE *INNOCENT* AS FAR AS ALL OF MY ILLICIT DEALINGS ARE CONCERNED.

BUT I *WILL* KILL HER IF YOU DON'T LET ME WALK OUT OF HERE.

DO YOU REALLY WANT SOME *INNOCENT* BLOOD ON YOUR *OWN* HANDS?

I UNDERSTAND YOU'VE GOT A THING ABOUT *INNOCENTS*.

WHAT'LL IT BE?

NO DEALS.

YOU MUST FEEL THE PAIN NO MATTER THE COST.

TCHINK

NO.

KRAK

AIEEEEEE!

MY EYES! WHY DID YOU DO *THAT* TO MY EYES?

YOUR PAIN IS JUST BEGINNING.

SO IS YOURS--

--IF YOU DON'T GET YOUR HANDS OVER YOUR HEAD NOW.

NO. VENGEANCE WILL NOT BE CHECKED.

BECAUSE OF YOUR BLINDNESS YOU CANNOT FEEL THE PAIN THAT THE PENANCE STARE WOULD GIVE YOU.

BUT YOUR BODY CAN STILL FEEL PAIN.

IT CAN BE BROKEN.

YOU WILL LIVE WITH YOUR PAIN, A GIFT YOU HAVE NOT GIVEN TO YOUR VICTIMS.

FREEZE!

NO. DEATHWATCH REMAINS.

K-rak-rrrrrmble

OFFICER... I WANT AN AMBULANCE. I'VE GOT...FRIENDS ON THE...FORCE.

I'M NOT ONE OF THEM.

I'VE GOT INFORMATION ABOUT DEATHWATCH. THAT'S WHERE GHOST RIDER WILL GO NEXT.

THANKS FOR TELLING ME. THAT'S ALL I NEED TO KNOW. NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME--

--I'VE HAD A BAD DAY.

POOM POOM POOM POOM POOM

TWO DISTINCTIVE INDIVIDUALS.

POLICE OFFICER.

SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE.

ONLY THE SHADOWS OF THE NIGHT SEPARATE THEM.

OR DO THEY?

NEXT ISSUE: DEATHWATCH OBSESSION

MARVEL COMICS

TM

© 1991 MARVEL ENT. GROUP, INC.

$1.75 US
$2.15 CAN
22
FEB
UK 95p

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

GHOST RIDER

Mark Texeira '91

WHEN INNOCENT BLOOD IS SPILLED, A SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE IS BORN, AND DANNY KETCH FINDS HIMSELF TRANSFORMED. STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

GHOST RIDER

A FEW MINUTES AGO GHOST RIDER BURST INTO AN ILLEGAL ARMS WAREHOUSE.

PTOOM

AS USUAL ONLY VENGEANCE IS ON HIS MIND.

PTING

BUDDA

THE MERCENARIES ON HAND DON'T SEEM TO CARE.

BRRATT

BUDDA

DEATH'S EYES

MACKIE/TEX/CHIANG/WRIGHT/CHASE/DeFALCO

THE MERCS' AMMUNITION RUNS OUT.

GHOST RIDER IS STILL STANDING.

IT DAWNS ON THESE BATTLE HARDENED VETERANS THAT THEY HAVE MADE A STRATEGIC ERROR IN JUDGMENT.

THEY ARE CORRECT.

AN ERROR THAT WILL SOON--

--BE PERMANENTLY IMPRINTED ON THEIR PSYCHES.

ON THEIR VERY SOULS.

I WANT--

--DEATHWATCH!

THE NEXT MORNING...

NEWS

6 DIE IN LA SHOOTING

MURDER

RAPE

PUNISHER STILL ON THE RUN

SIX DIED

SPIDER WOMAN WANTED FOR KILLINGS

NEWS MURDER IN EAST HARLEM DEAD

KILLE ON T

DEATH

COPS LOOK OUT FOR PUNISHER

DEATHWATCH.

I CAN'T GET HIM OUT OF MY HEAD.

GOT TO BRING HIM DOWN, BUT FIRST I'VE GOT TO FIND HIM!

THOSE RAIDS ON HIS OPERATIONS ARE TURNING UP NOTHING.

GOT TO TALK TO SOMEONE. FIGURE THIS OUT.

BRNNNGGGGG

HELLO! BLAZE HERE!

CARNIVAL

HEY, ROXANNE, IT'S THE KID FROM NEW YORK I TOLD YOU ABOUT, DAN KETCH!

HOW YOU DOING, KID?

QUENTIN CARNIVAL

OKAY, I GUESS. BUT I NEED SOME HELP.

THANKS TO YOU, I'M COMMITTED TO USING GHOST RIDER TO DO SOME GOOD.

BUT FIRST IT FEELS LIKE I'VE GOT TO CLEAN UP SOME OF THE OLD GARBAGE.

BLACKOUT IS IN PRISON. ZODIAK IS DEAD. AND SNOWBLIND IS ON THE CRITICAL LIST.

IT'S DEATHWATCH, HE'S THE WORST OF THEM ALL. I CAN FEEL IT IN MY BONES AND I CAN'T TOUCH HIM!

AND NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES I'VE GOT TO GET TO HIM... BRING HIM DOWN. SOMEHOW...SOME WAY!

DAN, IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU NEED TO STEP BACK AND GAIN SOME OBJECTIVITY. CHILL OUT. TAKE SOME TIME OFF. OTHERWISE YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GET ANYWHERE.

GET SOME REST AND THEN APPROACH THE SITUATION SUBTLY.

YEAH. SURE. THANKS FOR THE ADVICE. I'VE GOT TO GO.

CLIK

I'M WORRIED ABOUT THE KID. HE SOUNDS ON EDGE.

GRAND OPEN IG

...STEPHAN LORDS, THE CEO OF INTERNATIONAL CONTRACTORS, UNLIMITED--

--PROMISES THAT TODAY'S BUILDING DEDICATION WILL BE THE FIRST IN A SERIES OF HUMANITARIAN PROJECTS HIS ORGANIZATION WILL UNDERTAKE.

HALF THIS BUILDING HAS BEEN TURNED OVER TO CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS, AND A SHELTER FOR THE HOMELESS HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED IN THE BOTTOM TWO FLOORS. THE MAYOR IS LAUDING MR. LORDS FOR HIS--

THAT'S HIM! THAT'S DEATHWATCH!

SUBBASEMENT 1, MR. BECK.

YES, SIR, MR. LORDS.

2 1 L B SB

PUNCH

UPDATE ME WHILE I INTERCEDE ON THIS POOR EXCUSE FOR A TRAINING SESSION.

YES, SIR!

GHOST RIDER ACTIVITY AGAINST OUR OPERATIONS HAS INCREASED 27.5% IN THE LAST MONTH.

KLANK

THE POLICE HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL IN THEIR ATTEMPTS TO APPREHEND HIM.

THOUGH THEIR EFFORTS HAVE INCREASED NOTABLY, EXACT STATISTICS ARE AS YET UNAVAILABLE.

IT SEEMS MS. WEI'S BROADCASTS ARE HAVING THE DESIRED EFFECT.

ACTUALLY, GHOST RIDER IS PERFORMING A SERVICE FOR ME.

HE IS WEEDING OUT THE WEAK LINKS IN MY ORGANIZATION--

KRAK

--SO THAT I DON'T HAVE TO.

NOT THAT THE TASK IS WITHOUT ITS REWARDS!

AHHHH!

IRAN

ENOUGH OF GHOST RIDER. HE'LL NEVER GET TO ME. HOPEFULLY HE'LL JUST BURN HIMSELF OUT.

LATEST REPORTS ON OUR OVERSEAS OPERATIONS.

SOUTH AFRICA

TERRORIST ACTIVITY ON THE EUROPEAN CONTINENT HAS INCREASED 754%. THIS IS AN IMPROVEMENT OVER THE FIRST YEAR. SOUTH AMERICA AND AFRICA HAVE SHOWN TREMENDOUS PROSPECTS WITH AN INCREASE OF...

BRONX

HAITI

IRAQ

LATER...

THIS IS THE BUILDING.

I WAS ABLE TO SWING TODAY'S DELIVERY TO INTERNATIONAL CONTRACTORS UNLIMITED. WHO KNEW DEATHWATCH WAS A REGULAR CLIENT OF THE MESSENGER SERVICE I WORK FOR--

387

GEEK

I'VE EVEN MADE DELIVERIES TO HIS OFFICE BEFORE.

AND WITH ALL THE TIME I'VE BEEN TAKING LATELY I'LL BE LUCKY TO *HAVE* A JOB IN ANOTHER WEEK.

GOT TO CLEAR THIS DEATHWATCH THING UP *NOW*.

PING

MAYBE BLAZE WAS RIGHT ABOUT THE SUBTLE APPROACH.

WITH ALL THE CIVILIANS AROUND, I CAN'T AFFORD TO LET GHOST RIDER GO ON A RAMPAGE TO ROOT DEATHWATCH OUT.

TIME TO USE SOME CHARM.

IF I CAN REMEMBER HOW.

I.C.U.

INTERNATIONAL CONTRACTORS UNLIMITED

I THINK THE SECRETARY-- WHATEVER HER NAME IS-- WAS INTERESTED IN ME THE LAST TIME I WAS HERE.*

I HOPE THIS WORKS.

*GHOST RIDER #13.--BOBBIE

HI! RENEE. RIGHT?

YEAH! I REMEMBER YOU! HOW YOU DOING? IT MUST BE FUN BEING A MESSENGER. I LIKE THE FRESH AIR. I HATE BEING STUCK BEHIND A DESK ALL DAY. I'D RATHER BE RIDING A BIKE THROUGH THE CITY. GREAT FOR THE LEGS, HUH?

THIS JOB IS SUCH A DRAG. I DON'T KNOW WHY I TOOK IT. BUT IT PAYS THE RENT. EVEN THOUGH I'VE GOT TO SHARE MY PLACE WITH A ROOMMATE.

WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

I HAVE A PACKAGE, AND I WAS WONDERING IF YOU'D LIKE TO DO SOMETHING SOMETIME?

AHEM!

SURE! GIVE ME A CALL. I'LL GIVE YOU MY NUMBER.

MS. FUANARO, MAY I SEE YOU IN MY OFFICE?

YES, SIR, MR. BECK.

I'LL CALL YOU TONIGHT.

GREAT!

I.C.U.

THAT NIGHT...

I'M REALLY GLAD YOU CALLED, DAN. AND THAT WE WERE ABLE TO GET TOGETHER TONIGHT. I HAD FUN. I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE SO INTERESTED IN MY JOB. IT'S SO BORING AND NO ONE EVER TELLS ME ANYTHING. HAVEN'T EVEN MET THE BIG BOSS. HE JUST WALKS BY IN THE HALLS.

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD THE NAME DEATH--

UH-OH! DID YOU RUN A RED LIGHT OR SOMETHING? I RAN A LIGHT ONCE AND THE COP WAS **SO** MEAN. HE MADE ME SIT AND WAIT WHILE HE CALLED BACK TO THE STATION TO CHECK ON...

WOOO

HELLO, *DAN!* IS *THIS* THE IMPORTANT SOMETHING THAT HAS BEEN OCCUPYING ALL OF YOUR TIME?

STACY I--!

I REALLY DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT!

LATER THAT EVENING, DAN TRIES TO EXPLAIN...

STACY, IT'S NOT WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE. IF YOU'D JUST LET ME...

NO.

CLIK

OKAY. SO I'LL DEAL WITH THAT SITUATION LATER.

I CAN STILL TRY AND SALVAGE WHAT I STARTED WITH RENEE AND GET CLOSE TO DEATHWATCH!

BRRRRNG

HI! IT'S RENEE! WHO ARE YOU!?

HI. IT'S DAN. I JUST WANTED TO APOLOGIZE FOR TONIGHT. YOU STORMED OFF BEFORE I GOT A CHANCE TO EXPLAIN.

YEAH.

STACY IS AN OLD GIRLFRIEND OF MINE. IT'S OVER, BUT SHE REFUSES TO ADMIT IT.

SHE JUST CAN'T SEEM TO LET GO OF IT.

THAT HAPPENED TO ME ONCE WITH A GUY FROM HIGH SCHOOL. HIS NAME WAS--

DOES THIS MEAN WE CAN GIVE IT ANOTHER TRY?

SURE.

BUY

I FEEL LIKE SUCH A CREEP FOR LYING TO HER. SHE'S SO NAIVE, AND PRETTY SWEET.

BUT I'VE GOT TO GET TO DEATHWATCH.

NOW ABOUT YOUR JOB. HAS THE NAME DEATHWATCH EVER BEEN MENTIONED?

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

OUR PEOPLE HAVE JUST PICKED UP SOMETHING INTERESTING ON THE *RANDOM* WIRE TAPS WE RUN ON ALL NEW EMPLOYEES.

IT SEEMS *MS. FUANARO* HAS BEEN TALKING ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION AND *YOUR* NAME CAME UP.

REMEDY THE SITUATION AT ONCE.

ALREADY IN *ACTION.*

I REALLY DON'T KNOW TOO MUCH ABOUT THE PEOPLE I'M WORKING FOR, DAN. WHY ARE *YOU* SO INTERESTED?

RENEE! YOU WANT A SANDWICH?

NO THANKS! AND *YOU* DON'T NEED THE CALORIES EITHER!

YEAH, RIGHT-- URGH!

KEESHK

OMIGOD! OLLIE!

THEY *KILLED* HER!

RENEE! WHAT IS IT?!

RENEE!

RENEE!

FIVE MINUTES LATER...

WHAT HAVE I *DONE*?

WHY DID I PULL HER INTO THE MIDDLE OF THIS DEATHWATCH THING?

I CAN'T HAVE HER *BLOOD* ON MY HANDS.

THAT'S HER BUILDING NOW.

OH, *DAN*! THANK GOD!

PLEASE! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

IT'LL BE OKAY--

--I'M TAKING YOU SOMEWHERE *SAFE*.

THAT MUST BE HER *CONTACT*. LET'S FOLLOW.

SOON...

JACK, THIS A FRIEND OF MINE, RENEE. SHE'S IN *TROUBLE* AND I NEED--

YOU DON'T HAVE TO EXPLAIN. I'LL TAKE CARE OF HER.

I OWE YOU, BUDDY.

SO MUCH FOR THE *SUBTLE* APPROACH.

BY TRYING TO PLAY DETECTIVE I'VE SCREWED EVERYTHING UP.

THAT ISN'T WHAT GHOST RIDER IS ABOUT. IT'S TIME FOR US TO KICK SOME--

THUK

KILL HIM?

NO.

HE WANTS THEM ALL ALIVE IF POSSIBLE.

THEY ARE ALL TO BE INTERROGATED.

WHAT HAVE I GOTTEN MYSELF INTO? WHO WERE THOSE GUYS IN BLACK PAJAMAS? WHY IS THIS HAPPENING TO ME? OLIVIA? OMIGOD!

BLACK PAJAMAS, RENEE?

WHAT *KIND* OF BLACK PAJAMAS?

WHY? DOES IT MATTER?

THE LIGHTS!! WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LIGHTS?!

NINJA.

STAY CALM. I'M GOING TO CALL 911.

POLICE DEPARTMENT? THIS IS 45 NICHOLS AVE. I THINK WE HAVE A BURGLARY IN PROGRESS--

HMMMM

LINE'S DEAD.

"NO PROBLEM. WE'LL JUST WAIT FOR THE POLICE.

"EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE FINE."

WE'VE GOT A POSSIBLE BURGLARY ON NICHOLS.

THEY WANT US TO DO A ROLL BY.

EVERYTHING LOOKS QUIET--WAIT A MINUTE.

WHAT IS IT, *STACY?!*

THIS IS A FRIEND'S HOUSE.

PROBABLY NOTHING, BUT I'M GOING TO CHECK IT OUT, RAY.

NO PROBLEM.

BRINNGGG

JACK? YOU IN THERE? IT'S STACY!

STACY! OOH! MY HEAD!

CAN'T CALL OUT TO HER. THEY'LL *KILL* BOTH OF US.

JACK. STACY. RENEE. I'VE PUT *ALL* THEIR LIVES AT RISK FOR MY OWN *OBSESSION* WITH DEATHWATCH.

WHAT'LL I DO *NOW*?

BRRRNNG

JACK?

I CAN'T ANSWER, STACY.

THE NINJAS, OR WHATEVER THEY ARE, ARE HERE. I CAN *SENSE* THEM.

THEY'RE GOOD.

WHAK

BUT NOT THAT GOOD.

THE DOOR'S OPEN. BETTER HAVE RAY CALL FOR SOME BACK-UP. JUST IN CASE--

BLAM

SWORD NICKED MY SHOULDER BEFORE I SHOT HIM.

SOMETHING ABOUT THIS DOESN'T FEEL--

--RIGHT!

BLAM BLAM BLAM

STACE! I'M--

YOU ARE NOTHING.

BEFORE DAN KETCH CAN EVEN BEGIN TO FIGHT OFF HIS ATTACKER--

--THE MEDALLION ON HIS MOTORCYCLE BEGINS TO GLOW.

DAN KETCH UNDERGOES A TRANSFORMATION THAT STRIPS AWAY THE VERY FIBER OF HIS BEING.

FWOOSH

UNTIL IN HIS PLACE STANDS--

--GHOST RIDER!

VROOM

OFFICER NEEDS ASSISTANCE. SHOTS FIRED. GHOST RIDER ON THE SCENE.

REPEAT. OFFICER NEEDS ASSISTANCE--

THUK

THE MASKED KILLERS ARE OF LITTLE SIGNIFICANCE TO HIM.

THE INNOCENT LIVES AT STAKE ARE ALL THAT COUNT.

OMIGOD! WHAT IS THAT THING? IS IT REAL? IS IT GOING TO KILL US?

YOU ARE ALL SAFE.

THANKS.

NOW *FREEZE*. YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR THE MURDER OF A POLICE OFFICER.

NO.

I AM NOT A KILLER.

AND YOU WILL NOT HOLD ME BACK FROM--

--DEATHWATCH.

I APPRECIATE WHAT YOU DID HERE TONIGHT, BUDDY, BUT IF MY FRIEND SAYS YOU'RE UNDER ARREST THEN--

--YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!

THUP

Oof!

MY FOOT?

IT WAS LIKE KICKING A BLOCK OF CEMENT!

WHAT ARE YOU?

I AM THE SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE.

LATER...

I SEE, YOU, LIKE YOUR FATHER, HAVE A HABIT OF LETTING GHOST RIDER ESCAPE, OFFICER DOLAN.

IT WASN'T EXACTLY LIKE THAT, LIEUTENANT BADILINO. HE--

DOESN'T MATTER. MY MEN AND I WILL BRING HIM DOWN. SERGEANT, BRING THESE NINJA CLOWNS. WE'VE GOT SOME INTERROGATING TO DO.

YES, SIR.

THE WOMAN TOLD DANIEL THAT BECK WAS ALWAYS AT HIS OFFICE.

HE IS THE NEXT STEP TOWARDS DEATHWATCH.

MORE BLACK-CLAD ASSASSINS.

NO MORE BARRIERS WILL STAND IN MY WAY.

NOT THE KILLERS.

NOT THE BUILDING.

NOTHING.

WELCOME, GHOST RIDER. I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU.

YOU'VE BEEN A REAL IRRITATION TO ME AS OF LATE.

A WORTHY OPPONENT, BUT AN IRRITATION NONE THE LESS.

I CANNOT ALLOW THIS TO CONTINUE.

AND WHILE A SHOWDOWN COULD PROVE INTERESTING--

--I CAN'T AFFORD THE TIME. I HAVE A TIGHT SCHEDULE TO MEET.

SIR, ARE YOU SURE? THE INVESTMENTS WE HAVE TIED UP IN THE BUILDING... THE MEN!

DON'T INTERRUPT ME, BECK. THE MONEY MEANS NOTHING. THE MEN LESS.

GOODBYE, GHOST RIDER.

END OF CONVERSATION.

END OF YOUR INTERFERENCE.

END OF YOU.

CLIK

KRAK-KWOOM

AHHHH!

SWEET DEATH.

THE DEATH SCREAMS OF HUNDREDS OF LIVES BEING SNUFFED OUT, ALL AT ONCE.

MR. BECK, IT JUST DOESN'T GET ANY BETTER THAN THIS.

NEXT ISSUE:

DEATH DRIVE

MARVEL COMICS

© 1992 MARVEL ENT GROUP INC.

$1.75 US
$2.15 CAN
23
MAR
UK 95p

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

GHOST RIDER

DEATHWATCH WILL *DIE* FOR THIS!

WHEN INNOCENT BLOOD IS SPILLED, A SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE IS BORN, AND DANNY KETCH FINDS HIMSELF TRANSFORMED. STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

GHOST RIDER

"ONE HOUR AGO, A BUILDING EXPLODED IN MIDTOWN MANHATTAN.

"AS A RESULT THE STRUCTURE COLLAPSED IN ON ITSELF. RESCUE WORKERS ARE STILL ATTEMPTING TO ESTIMATE THE LOSS OF HUMAN LIFE. THE LIKELIHOOD OF SURVIVORS SEEMS SLIGHT.

"WE CAN ONLY HOPE THAT THIS ALSO MEANS THE END OF--

"--THE *GHOST RIDER.*"

DEATH DRIVE

HOWARD MACKIE WRITER • TEX ARTIST • JANICE CHIANG LETTERER • GREGORY WRIGHT COLORIST • BOBBIE CHASE EDITOR • TOM DeFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

LINDA WEI, FOR NEWS-6.

EYEWITNESSES HAVE REPORTED THAT THE EXPLOSION IS A RESULT OF A *GHOST RIDER* RAMPAGE.

NEWS

AS YOU MAY RECALL, THE BUILDING HAD RECENTLY BEEN DEDICATED AS A NEW SYMBOL TO THE CITY. A PLACE WHERE COMMERCE AND THE UNDERPRIVILEGED COULD COEXIST.

REPORTS ARE THAT THE HOMELESS SHELTER IN THE BASEMENT OF THE BUILDING WAS FILLED TO CAPACITY. RESCUE WORKERS CANNOT YET ESTIMATE THE CASUALTIES CAUSED BY THE *GHOST RIDER*.

IF THERE CAN BE ANY SOLACE FOUND IN A GRIEVOUS TIME SUCH AS THIS, IT IS THAT WITNESSES REPORT THAT THE *GHOST RIDER* WAS DESTROYED BY HIS OWN HAND.

THE BUILDING'S OWNER AND THE BENEFACTOR OF THE SHELTER CANNOT BE REACHED AT THIS TIME, BUT REPORTS ARE THAT HE IS GRIEF-STRICKEN AT THE LOSS OF HUMAN LIFE.

MORE ON THIS STORY AS INFORMATION COMES IN.

END?

SO MUCH DEATH.

IT SEEPS THROUGH THE ROCK AND DEBRIS.

THE INNOCENT.

DEATHWATCH'S KILLERS.

ALL BURIED TOGETHER.

ALL DEAD.

NOOOOO!

OMIGOD!

THE SCREAMS.

ALIVE.

DYING.

WHILE I'M TRAPPED IN THIS TOMB.

HELP!

NO!

NO!

NO!

HELP ME!

DEATH ALL AROUND ME.

AM I THE CAUSE OF THIS MISERY AS WELL AS THE VEHICLE OF VENGEANCE?

WHAT HAPPENED?

NO. IT IS--

--DEATHWATCH!

OMIGOD!

SCREAMS.

PAIN.

OH, YES.

DEATH.

ECSTASY.

SIR?

YOU KNOW BETTER THAN TO DISTURB ME WHEN I'M IN THE MIDST OF FEEDING. NOW WHAT IS IT?

I THOUGHT YOU WOULD WANT TO TAKE CARE OF THE ASSASSIN TRAINEES THAT WERE CAPTURED BY THE POLICE LAST NIGHT. THEY ARE A LOOSE END THAT COULD LEAD BACK TO OUR ORGANIZATION.

CORRECTION, BECK... *FORMER* ORGANIZATION. THIS COSTUME WILL NO LONGER SERVE A PURPOSE.

AS FAR AS ANY LINKS TO ME THROUGH THE FORMER EMPLOYEES OF THE ORGANIZATION--

--I HAVE CALLED UPON TWO OLD ASSOCIATES TO HELP ME HANDLE THEM. THEIR CODE NAMES ARE *HAG* AND *TROLL*. WE GO WAY BACK.

IF THE ORGANIZATION NO LONGER EXISTS, WHAT ABOUT ME?

YES. WHAT ABOUT YOU?

ACK!

WHUMP

AH! DESSERT!

HAG. TROLL. THANK YOU FOR TAKING CARE OF MY LOOSE ENDS.

OF COURSE, BUT MUST WE CONTINUE USING THESE SILLY CODE NAMES?

FOR NOW, WE MUST.

BUT ONE DAY...

THE SCREAMING HAS ENDED.

THE DEAD ARE SILENCED FOR AN ETERNITY.

WHAT'S THIS?

HULPH...

SHE LIVES.

KOF-W-WHO'S THERE? I CAN'T SEE...MY EYES...

HER BODY IS CRUSHED. ANOTHER LIFE--MORE INNOCENT BLOOD ON MY HANDS.

PLEASE! YOU'VE GOT TO HELP--

REST.

Y-YOUR VOICE! SO COLD. WHO ARE YOU?

NEVER MIND ÷KOFF÷... MY **BABIES**... JEREMY... LISA... YOU'VE GOT TO SAVE THEM... IN THE ***SHELTER***... THE EXPLOSION... CRYING... SO MANY DIED... I LIVED... COULD HEAR THEM CALLING TO ME... GOT TO GET THEM... HEARD OTHERS WITH THEM... ALIVE... ALL ALIVE... BUT SO SCARED.

GOT TO TELL ÷KOFF÷... THAT EVERYTHING IS FINE... MY BABIES...

DEAD.

SILENCED LIKE THE REST.

ALL THEIR SPIRITS SCREAM FOR VENGEANCE.

I AM THEIR VOICE NOW.

I WILL SAVE THOSE THAT I CAN. AND THEN--

--I'M COMING FOR YOU, DEATHWATCH.

MEANWHILE...

THREE FIGURES LEAP ACROSS THE ROOFTOPS IN BROOKLYN.

THE DARKNESS HIDES THEIR INHUMAN MANEUVERS FROM THE PEOPLE ON THE STREETS BELOW.

75TH PRECINCT

THIS IS OUR DESTINATION, TROLL. PLEASE SEE TO THE OFFICER TAKING A CIGARETTE BREAK DOWN THERE.

CIGARETTE SMOKING IS SUCH A DISGUSTING HABIT.

WHY ARE WE HERE, DEATHWATCH?

TO CLEAN UP MORE *LOOSE ENDS*, MY DEAR, AND BECAUSE--

--IT'S *FUN!*

ARGHH!

ZRK

WHAT *IS* THIS THING? THE *PAIN!* TEARING ME APART! *STOP!*

HAG, PLEASE.

THERE, THERE. EVERYTHING WILL BE OVER SHORTLY.

DOESN'T *THIS* FEEL BETTER?

MMMPH!

OF COURSE IT DOES.

YOU HAVE SUCH A STRONG HEALTHY *HEART*.

NO REASON TO GET IT ALL EXCITED.

JUST LET ME--

--*HOLD IT* FOR A WHILE!

HUMPH!

MMM! DELICIOUS!

THERE IS MORE WHERE THAT CAME FROM, HAG DEAR.

BUT LET'S NOT TRY TO KILL *TOO* MANY OF THE *POLICE OFFICERS*. THESE *HUMANS* GET SO UPSET WHEN *THEY* DIE.

TOO BAD BLACKOUT IS NO LONGER AVAILABLE. HE WOULD HAVE BEEN USEFUL TONIGHT.

THIS IS THE KIND OF THING THAT HE SO LOVED.

GUESS HE JUST COULDN'T HANDLE THE POWER. NOW HE'S LOCKED IN ONE OF THOSE HUMAN *INSANE ASYLUMS*.

OH, WELL!

FIRST THE ROOFTOPS. NOW SKULKING AROUND IN THE BASEMENT. WHY ALL THE SUBTERFUGE, DEATHWATCH?

WHY DON'T WE JUST WALK IN THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR AND TAKE WHAT WE'RE AFTER?

BECAUSE NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO REVEAL OURSELVES, AND--

--BECAUSE I SAY SO!

NOW, PLEASE BE KIND ENOUGH TO TAKE CARE OF THIS ELECTRICAL JUNCTION BOX...

SURE.

ZZZATT

INSIDE THE POLICE STATION...LIEUTENANT MICHAEL BADILINO CONDUCTS AN INTERROGATION.

READY TO TALK?

WHO ARE YOU? WHO DO YOU WORK FOR? WHY WERE YOU AFTER THE GIRL?*

*SEE LAST ISSUE. --BOBBIE

TALK TO ME!

LET'S PICK UP THE *NINJA-WANNABE*, BOYS.

I CAN SEE WE'RE GOING TO BE HERE ALL NIGHT WITH HIM AND HIS PAJAMA-CLAD FRIENDS.

LIEUTENANT, THE LIGHTS?

LOOKS LIKE THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GET INTERESTING.

BLOOD.

DEATH.

ALL AROUND.
SEEPING THROUGH
EVERYTHING.

NOT SINCE MY REBIRTH HAVE I BEEN SO REVOLTED BY ANYTHING.

SO SCARED.

BUT I CANNOT BE STOPPED.

I AM DRIVEN BY VENGEANCE.

DRIVEN BY THE SCREAMS OF THE INNOCENT.

WHAT IS IT?

OMIGOD! NOOOOOO! HELP US!

RRRRRR

SOMEBODY CHECK OUT THE EMERGENCY GENERATOR.

DONUTS

GET SOME FLASHLIGHTS OUT HERE!

MOVE IT, PEOPLE!

YES, SARGE! HEY! WATCH OUT!

HEY, MAN, WHAT'S GOING ON!?

IT AIN'T BEDTIME!

WHAT KIND OF BULL IS THIS? I WANT MY BALONEY SANDWICH!

THIS IS NO COINCIDENCE.

HE'S COMING. WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

WHAT CAN WE DO? WE WAIT UNTIL HE BREAKS US OUT OF HERE.

NO BREAKING OUT TONIGHT, GENTLEMEN. THE TERMS OF OUR CONTRACT ARE NOW OFFICIALLY VOIDED.

LET'S MOVE THROUGH THIS MESS QUICKLY, BEFORE SOME BOY IN BLUE SHOOTS HIMSELF AND US.

FROM HERE ON IN EVERYTHING IS DONE WITH HAND SIGNALS.

NIGHT GOGGLES IN PLACE, AND LET'S GET DOWNSTAIRS.

THE POLICE OFFICERS MOVE THROUGH THE DARKNESS WITH THE CONFIDENCE OF MEN WHO HAVE COMPLETE FAITH IN THE MAN WHO LEADS THEM.

BADILINO IS SUCH A LEADER.

THE STENCH OF DEATH ASSAULTS THEIR NOSTRILS. THEIR STOMACHS CHURN IN RESPONSE--

--AND STILL THEY FOLLOW ON.

ALL WILL FOLLOW BADILINO INTO ANY SITUATION.

THEY ARE PREPARED FOR ANYTHING.

ALMOST.

BADILINO REACTS WITH BLINDING SPEED.

BLAM

BLAM

HIS TARGETS REACT EVEN MORE QUICKLY.

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

BADILINO IS NOT USED TO MISSING.

HIS SECOND ROUND FINDS A MARK.

BLAM

DEATHWATCH IS HIT!

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

Ughh!

YOU WERE LUCKY TONIGHT, OFFICER.

SOON YOU'LL REGRET THAT LUCK.

BLOOD ON MY GOGGLES... BLINDING ME.

CLIK

LIGHTS ARE BACK-- WHOA!

I HAVEN'T SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS SINCE EL SALVADOR.

WHO WERE THEY, LIEUTENANT?

I DON'T KNOW, BUT *WE'RE* GOING TO FIND OUT.

NO! NO! GET BACK!

DEATH IS ALL AROUND THEM. IT THREATENS TO SWALLOW THEM WHOLE--

--YET IT IS ME THAT THEY FEAR.

HELP ME!

KRASH

NO MORE BLOOD WILL BE SPILLED TONIGHT.

ALL WILL BE SAVED.

VOOM

HE SAVED HER. PULLED HER FROM THE DIRT.

BUT WHAT'S HE DOING WITH HER NOW?

LET'S FOLLOW 'EM!

WHERE IS HE TAKING HER?

YOU WILL BE SAFE, CHILD.

I TRIED TO CARRY ONE OTHER TO SAFETY DIRECTLY AFTER MY REBIRTH!*

I FAILED.

EMERGENCY

*SEE GHOST RIDER#1. --BOBBIE

HER BLOOD IS FOREVER ON MY HANDS.

YOURS WILL NOT BE.

ON THE SURFACE...

RESCUE WORKERS HAVE ALL BUT GIVEN UP HOPE OF FINDING ANY SURVIVORS.

SO FAR ALL THEY'VE ENCOUNTERED HERE IS DEATH.

IF ONE CAN FIND ANY SOLACE IN TRAGEDY SUCH AS THIS ONE-- IT WOULD BE THAT--

--THIS IS THE END OF THE GHOST RIDER.

RRRRRRRMBLE

"WHAT'S THIS?

"THE GROUND APPEARS TO BE RUMBLING. RESCUE WORKERS ARE MOVING BACK.

THOOOOOOOOOOMM

"THEY APPEAR TO BE BRACING FOR A SECONDARY--

"LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE! THE GHOST RIDER HAS EMERGED FROM THE WRECKAGE OF THE BUILDING. HE APPEARS TO BE HOLDING A YOUNG GIRL HOSTAGE.

VROOOOOOOOOOO

SARGE! MORE PEOPLE COMING UP FROM THE HOLE HE TORE THROUGH THE GROUND. WHATTA WE DO?

KICKED IF I KNOW!

YOU DID IT! YOU SAVED US!

SAVED US ALL!

THANK YOU.

THANK YOU.

THANK YOU.

THANK YOU.

I DON'T GET IT!

SARGE?

JUST KEEP YOUR GUNS ON HIM UNTIL I FIGURE OUT SOMETHING?

CUT THE LIVE FEED!

NO.

THE STUDIO SAYS KEEP IT COMING.

"THIS GUY MIGHT TURN OUT TO BE ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS AFTER ALL."

SARGE, HE'S GETTIN' AWAY!

OH, WELL!

YEAH. GREAT.

VROOM

JOHN F. KENNEDY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT...

WHILE THINGS COOL DOWN HERE, WE'RE OFF FOR THE MIDDLE EAST. THERE WILL BE PLENTY FOR ALL OF US.

SOLDIERS, WOMEN, CHILDREN--HE'S PAYING US TO KILL HIS OWN PEOPLE! WHAT A WORLD THIS IS!

BRRRMMMG

YES?

HE WHAT?

THEY--?

KRAK

IT APPEARS THAT OUR TRIP HAS BEEN DELAYED. THERE IS ONE MORE LOOSE END TO ATTEND TO.

YOU MAY FIND THIS OF EVEN MORE INTEREST THAN TONIGHT'S LITTLE ADVENTURE.

THE TARGET MAY HAVE SOME LINK TO OUR OLD FRIEND *ZARATHOS.*

I HAVE NEVER TAKEN A HUMAN LIFE BEFORE. SOMETHING WITHIN ME PREVENTS THIS. BUT I NOW KNOW THAT--

--DEATHWATCH MUST DIE!

BUT FIRST I MUST FIND HIM

HOSPI

--AND I WILL!

KEEESH

OMILORD! WHAT IS IT?!

MORE FEAR.

FREEZE! OR YOU'RE DEAD!

MORE IDLE THREATS.

GRAB HIM!

MORE ATTEMPTS BY THE INNOCENT TO STAND IN THE WAY OF MY SEARCH FOR ANSWERS--

--FOR VENGEANCE.

I WILL NOT HURT YOU, DESPITE WHAT YOU MAY THINK.

BUT YOU CANNOT STOP ME

THIS MAN WILL LEAD ME TO A KILLER.

LEAVE US!

THUMP

SNOWBLIND

YOU WILL POINT ME TO DEATHWATCH.

I WILL BREAK MY VOW TO NEVER TAKE A HUMAN LIFE. HE WILL DIE.

SURE. NO PROBLEM. I'LL TELL YOU WHERE YOU CAN FIND THE DOUBLE-CROSSING SNAKE. HE LEFT ME TWISTING IN THE WIND SO THAT YOU COULD TAKE ME DOWN. I OWE HIM NOTHING--

--BUT LET ME MAKE THIS VOW THING EASY FOR YOU--

--DEATHWATCH *ISN'T* HUMAN!

NEXT ISSUE: THE FINAL SHOWDOWN BETWEEN GHOST RIDER AND DEATHWATCH!

MARVEL COMICS

TM

© 1992 MARVEL ENT. GROUP, INC.

$1.75 US
$2.15 CAN
24
APR
UK 95p

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

GHOST RIDER®

WHEN INNOCENT BLOOD IS SPILLED, A SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE IS BORN, AND DANNY KETCH FINDS HIMSELF TRANSFORMED. STAN LEE PRESENTS . . .

GHOST RIDER

DEATH DUEL

"OH, SNOWBLIND!"

LEAVE ME ALONE.

GO AWAY!

I TOLD YOU EVERYTHING I KNOW, GHOST RIDER!

HOWARD MACKIE WRITER • MARK TEXEIRA ARTIST ANDY KUBERT, P.22 • JANICE CHIANG LETTERER • GREGORY WRIGHT COLORIST • BOBBIE CHASE EDITOR • TOM DeFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

I KNOW YOU DID.

THAT'S WHY MY ASSOCIATES AND I DECIDED TO PAY YOU A VISIT.

DEATHWATCH!

YOU RECOGNIZE MY VOICE. HOW TOUCHING.

NOW IT'S TIME FOR US TO TAKE CARE OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

CHECK THIS!

"AND IT DOESN'T APPEAR THAT GHOST RIDER WILL BE AROUND TO LEND YOU A HAND."

VIOLENCE.

PAIN.

BLOOD.

THE ONLY THINGS HIS TYPE UNDERSTAND.

IT'S A HOSTAGE SITUATION, SARGE. A DEALER LOOKING FOR SOME GUY WHO OWES HIM CASH. THE GUY WASN'T HOME. HIS GIRLFRIEND WAS.

HOW DO I KNOW?

AND HOW DID GHOST RIDER ENTER THE PICTURE?

POLICE

POLICE

"BUT THE GIRL'S BEEN CUT, GHOST RIDER AND THE DEALER ARE GOING AT IT. AND THE S.W.A.T. GUYS ARE IN PLACE."

"SOON AS THEY'RE BOTH IN THE SIGHTS I WANT THEM TAKEN OUT."

"YES, SIR!"

YOU DESERVE--

--DEATH.

KRAK

BUT I WILL NOT TAKE A HUMAN LIFE.

ALL I CAN GIVE YOU IS--

--pain!

AAAARRG

LATER, IN THE CYPRESS HILLS SECTION OF BROOKLYN...

R.I.P. T.S.J. R.K.J.

BAIR 1958-1991

BEACHUM

DEATHWATCH.

YOU ARE MINE.

ALL THE BLOOD YOU HAVE SPILLED WILL BE AVENGED.

PAIN WILL NOT BE ENOUGH.

THERE CAN NEVER BE ENOUGH--

--PAIN FOR--

--DEATHWATCH.

OH, WE'RE COMING FOR YOU, DEATHWATCH.

LATER...

BLAZE? IT'S *DAN!*

YEAH, KETCH!

LISTEN, I'M ONTO SOMETHING BIG WITH DEATHWATCH.

REAL BIG! THEY'RE *EVERYWHERE.*

IF ALL THE STUFF THAT'S HAPPENED TO ME HADN'T, I WOULDN'T BELIEVE IT!

BUT I'M GOING AFTER HIM. TAKING HIM DOWN. HARD.

CALM DOWN, KID. YOU'RE NOT MAKING SENSE. ARE YOU GETTING ANY SLEEP?

NEVER MIND.

LISTEN. THE CARNIVAL IS JUST SETTING UP FOR A GIG IN NEW ORLEANS. IN A FEW WEEKS WE'RE HEADING BACK NORTH.

WE CAN TALK ABOUT ALL THIS IN PERSON. TILL THEN JUST CHILL OUT.

IT CAN'T WAIT! HE'S GOT TO BE STOPPED. AND ALL *LIKE* HIM. I JUST HAD TO CALL YOU IN CASE ANYTHING HAPPENED TO ME.

IF IT DOES, I WANT YOU TO GIVE MY JOURNAL TO MY MOM. BARB'S GOT IT. IT'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING TO EVERYONE.

CLAK

DAN!

HE'S LOST IT.

WHAT IF THIS IS ZARATHOS TAKING HIM OVER LIKE HE DID ME?

I CAN'T WORRY ABOUT IT. HE'S A BIG BOY.

I CAN'T GO SAVING THE WORLD--

--I'VE GOT MY FAMILY TO THINK ABOUT!

YEAH! RIGHT!

IF IT IS *ZARATHOS*, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO KILL HIM.

THEN WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU, DAN?

CYPRESS HILLS CEMETERY...

GOOD-BYE, BARB--

--MAYBE I'LL BE SEEING YOU SOON.

VRRAAAAA

ARBARA KETCH-

KEEP MY JOURNAL SAFE UNTIL THEN.

MOM.

EVANS BEDS

1214

MARK'S COFFEE & DONUTS

RESTAU

I WANT TO TELL YOU EVERYTHING--

--BUT I CAN'T.

JACK! HE'S BEEN MY BEST FRIEND SINCE FIRST GRADE. HE'LL LISTEN.

SOON...

NICE. HE AND *RENEE* SEEM TO HAVE HIT IT OFF.

I CAN'T BELIEVE I USED HER TO GET TO *DEATHWATCH*. ALMOST COST HER HER LIFE.

IT'D BE BETTER IF I LEFT THEM ALONE.

SHORTLY...

POLICE 70TH PRECINCT

STACY!

TAKE THIS SLEAZE IN, RAY. I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.

WHAT, DAN?

I'M SORRY, STACY. FOR EVERYTHING.

YEAH. RIGHT.

JUST LEAVE ME ALONE, DAN!

BLAZE WILL TAKE CARE OF IT ALL.

HE'LL FIND MY JOURNAL. HE'LL TELL THEM ALL WHY IT HAS TO HAPPEN THIS WAY.

ELSEWHERE...

OH, SNOWBLIND!

TIME TO WAKE UP, SLEEPYHEAD!

WE'RE HAVING A PARTY!

HAG AND TROLL ARE HERE!

THANKS TO YOU, *GHOST RIDER* IS ON THE GUEST LIST.

I'VE INVITED PEOPLE IN OFF THE STREETS.

THEY, AND YOU, WILL NOT ONLY BE THE GUESTS OF HONOR, BUT ALSO THE --

--*HORS O'OEUVRES!*

MMPH!

THIS *IS* INVIGORATING!

THEIR LIFE FORCES ARE COURSING THROUGH MY BODY NOW.

DOING ME MUCH MORE GOOD THAN IT EVER DID THEM.

THE SWEEPINGS OF THE STREET.

NO ONE WILL MISS THEM.

NO ONE EVER DOES.

THE HOMELESS. THE RUNAWAYS. IF ONLY GHOST RIDER HAD NOT FORCED ME TO BLOW UP MY NEW BUILDING.

THE SHELTER THAT I HAD INSTALLED IN IT GAVE ME ACCESS TO ALL THE HUMAN SUFFERING THAT I SO CRAVE.

HMMPH!

TO ALL THE DEATH.

BUT NOW YOUR STRENGTH WILL BE ABSORBED AS EASILY AS--

YOUR TURN IS COMING, SNOWBLIND. IT DIDN'T HAVE TO HAPPEN THIS WAY. YOU AND YOUR BROTHER COULD HAVE JOINED ME.

KRAK

AH!

I GROW STRONGER.

GREENWICH VILLAGE...

HE'S HERE.

SOMEWHERE.

HE *KNOWS* I'M COMING.

HE'LL BE *READY.*

SO WILL *I.*

STOP

VILLAGE BOWL

STOP

VARIETY

AAARRRRGGGHHH

THERE.

FWOOSH

I'M COMING FOR YOU, DEATHWATCH!

TONIGHT YOU MUST *DIE!*

IT APPEARS THAT THE HORS D'OEUVRES ARE JUST ABOUT FINISHED

THE GUEST OF HONOR IS ABOUT TO ARRIVE.

MY STRENGTH IS JUST ABOUT TO PEAK.

THE PARTY CAN SOON BEGIN IN EARNEST.

UNFORTUNATELY, YOU WON'T BE AROUND TO SEE IT.

OH, SORRY, *SNOWBLIND!* NO OFFENSE INTENDED!

NO!!!

HAG. TROLL. IF YOU'D PLEASE ASSIST ME.

MY FRIEND HERE COULD USE SOME TENDERIZING.

HEH! HEH! HEH!

KRAK

TROLL. A LITTLE PAIN, PLEASE.

WITH PLEASURE.

NOOOO!

DEATHWATCH, WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?

I'LL GIVE YOU *ANYTHING* YOU WANT. JUST *STOP* THE PAIN!

MY DEAR SNOWBLIND, YOUR *PAIN* AND *DEATH* ARE *ALL* THAT I DESIRE.

OOH! WHAT NICE PECS!

PERHAPS YOU'RE AS WELL BUILT--

--ON THE INSIDE!

AAIIIEEE

YES

I WANT TO *SAVOR* IT.

THAT'S IT. PROLONG HIS DEATH.

ABSORB HIS POWER.

KRAK

NO MORE DEATH, DEMON!

CAN'T YOU SEE THAT DEATHWATCH IS BUSY ENTERTAINING A GUEST?

YOU'LL HAVE TO BE SATISFIED WITH MYSELF AND MY GORGEOUS COMPANION.

HAG?

KRAK

OH, THIS IS MORE THAN I HAD HOPED FOR, TROLL. COULD THIS BE ZARATHOS HIMSELF?

MY FRIENDS, AFTER ALL MY PREPARATION, PLEASE SAVE SOME OF *GHOST RIDER* FOR ME!

THOUGH IT DOES SEEM THAT YOU TWO HAVE THINGS WELL IN HAND.

NO, DEMON, THE BATTLE HAS JUST BEGUN!

FOR NOW I KNOW WHAT YOU ARE, AND I AM PREPARED.

HIS HEAD!

MY HANDS! ON FIRE! SO COLD!

SHRAAAK

AND YOU AND YOUR COHORTS SHALL RECEIVE THE ULTIMATE VENGEANCE--

--DEATH!

TCHINK

YOU KNOW NOTHING, GHOST RIDER!

AND ARE PREPARED FOR LESS.

BUT THERE WILL BE A FIGHT--

FOR NOW YOU FACE *DEATHWA--*

WHAT'S THIS?

EMPTY ALREADY?

SNOWBLIND, YOU WERE MORE DISSATISFYING IN *DEATH* THAN YOU WERE IN *LIFE.*

HOPEFULLY, GHOST RIDER'S LIFE ESSENCE WILL PROVIDE A BIT MORE SATISFACTION.

NOW WHERE IS HE? SURELY A MERE TWENTY-STORY FALL HAS NOT FINISHED HIM OFF!

VROOM

WHAM

I SHOULD HAVE EXPECTED THAT HIS FAITHFUL *MOTORCYCLE* TO THE RESCUE.

AFTER I KILL HIM I SIMPLY *MUST* KEEP THAT BIKE.

AH, YOU'RE BACK.

SHALL WE CONTINUE?

WE WILL *FINISH,* DEATHWATCH.

OH, DEAR, YOU STILL HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IT IS YOU'RE UP AGAINST.

SHUP

PAIN.

I HAD HOPED THAT THIS WOULD TRULY BE A FIGHT.

THAT PERHAPS YOU WERE *ZARATHOS.*

BUT YOU ARE NOTHING.

CRAK

YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE READY FOR ME BECAUSE OF WHAT YOU LEARNED FROM *SNOWBLIND?* HE KNEW NOTHING OF MY TRUE POWER. OR THE POWER OF MY BRETHREN. THIS IS POWER!

TAP

THE POWER TO BEAT YOU TO DEATH WITH ONE OF YOUR OWN HELLFIRE-COVERED RIBS.

MY POWER

SEE HOW LITTLE YOU KNOW, *GHOST RIDER.*

WHOK

WHOK

WHOK

"THE BLOOD OF THE INNOCENT HAS BEEN SPILLED."

."VENGEANCE WILL BE MINE."

"I AM THE SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE."

YOU ARE THE SPIRIT OF ***NOTHING***. YOU KNOW LESS ABOUT YOURSELF THAN YOU KNOW ABOUT ME.

WHAT A CRUEL, YET FAIR, JOKE HAS BEEN PLAYED ON YOU. YOU ARE GIVEN THE ***VISAGE OF DEATH ITSELF*** AND YET YOU WILL NOT TAKE A LIFE, WHEREAS I HAVE TAKEN ON THAT FORM WHICH HUMANS CONSIDER TO BE ***ATTRACTIVE***, AND I REVEL IN DEATH.

YOU ARE WRONG IN ONE THING, DEATHWATCH.

AND YOU ARE NOT HUMAN!

OOF!

TCHTK

IT IS A ***HUMAN*** LIFE THAT I WILL NOT TAKE.

WHAT? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE!

THIS... CANNOT... BE... THIS...

WHO... ARE... YOU...?

ZODIAK, SNOWBLIND, HAG, TROLL--

--AND NOW DEATHWATCH.

ALL DEAD.

WHAT REMAINS FOR ME?

NEXT ISSUE:

DOUBLE-SIZED EXTRAVAGANZA!
THE RETURN OF BLACKOUT!!!
GUESS WHO WON'T SURVIVE!

$1.50 US
$1.80 CAN / UK 80p
98
CC 02214

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE
CA
AUTHORITY

MARVEL® COMICS PRESENTS™

GHOST RIDER®

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #98-99

WRITER: **DAN SLOTT** • ARTIST: **JIMMY PALMIOTTI** • COLORIST: **FREDDY MENDEZ**
LETTERERS: **JANICE CHIANG** (#98) & **STEVE DUTRO** (#99)
ASSISTANT EDITOR: **MARK POWERS** • EDITOR: **TERRY KAVANAGH**

CITY PEOPLE HAVE AN UNSEEN DIAL, LIKE A RADIO TUNER.

THERE'S THIS GUY IN HADES, AND HE'S GOT THIS *BIG* ROCK.

HOW SHOULD *I* KNOW HOW BIG?

SO, HE'S GOT TO PUSH IT TO THE TOP OF THIS BIG FREAKIN' HILL.

FINE ADJUSTMENT TURNS ALL THE UNPLEASANT SIGHTS AND SOUNDS INTO BACKGROUND NOISE.

BECAUSE HE'S IN *HADES*. NOW SHUT IT.

ANYWAY, *RIGHT* BEFORE HE GETS TO THE TOP, GUESS WHAT HAPPENS?

THEN THERE'RE SOME LIKE JACK WEAVER, WHO CAN TUNE INTO SPECIAL WAVELENGTHS...

RIGHT! *ALL* THE WAY TO THE BOTTOM, EVERY TIME.

HOMELESS COLD AND HUNGRY Please Help!

WELL, I'M ASKING-- WHY *PUSH* IT IN THE FIRST PLACE?

...SEEING AND HEARING THINGS NO ONE ELSE CAN.

D'SPRYTE TIMES, D'SPRYTE MEASURES

GUESS HE'D GO *CRAZY* DOING NOTHING.

AMEN TO THAT, BUDDY!

GHOST RIDER

HEY, JACK, CHECK OUT THIS SWELL IN THE ARMANI!

THERE'S AT LEAST A DIME IN HIM.

MAYBE A QUARTER.

SIR, SPARE SOME CHANGE, *PLEASE*. COLD DAY, SIR.

HAKK PTEW

GET A JOB.

WHY THAT SUNNUVA...

HOMELESS COLD AND HUNGRY Please Help

SAY THE WORD, JACK! I'LL GET 'IM! GET 'IM GOOD!

YESS, JACK? YESSS?

YEAH.

HALF A BLOCK AWAY...

IT JUST DOESN'T STOP! *GHOST RIDER'S* TAKING UP ALL MY TIME!

WHAT WITH GOING AFTER *ZODIAK*, *SNOWBLIND*, AND *DEATHWATCH**, THERE'S BEEN NO CHANCE FOR *DAN KETCH* TO HAVE ANY SEMBLANCE OF A LIFE!

I'M EVEN BEGINNING TO *THINK* OF MYSELF IN THE THIRD PERSON! NOW THAT *IS* SAD!

**SEE GRS #19-23. -- TERRY*

UP AHEAD, ALL THOSE PEOPLE ARE BLOCKING THE STREET.

WONDER WHAT THE BIG ATTRACTION IS...

ON THAT LEDGE, A JUMPER!

WHY AM I UP HERE? WHAT AM I DOING?!

YOU'RE HERE BECAUSE YOU'RE A HORRID AND PATHETIC LITTLE MAN.

YOU'RE HERE TO JUMP.

GHOST RIDER COULD GET HIM DOWN FROM THERE!

BUT SINCE HE'LL ONLY COME WHEN INNOCENT BLOOD'S BEEN SPILT...

...I'LL JUST HAVE TO MANUFACTURE SOME OF MY OWN.

TOUCHING HIS BLOODY HAND TO HIS BIKE'S MYSTIC TALISMAN, DAN KETCH FINDS HIMSELF...

...UNCHANGED.

NO! IT DIDN'T WORK!

C'MON! GHOST RIDER CAN RIDE UP THE SIDE OF THE BUILDING AND SAVE HIM!

AND ALL I CAN DO IS WATCH!

SO CHANGE, BLAST IT!

SLAP

CHANGE!

C'MON!

SLAM SLAM SLAM

JUMP!

YOU HAVE NOTHING!

JUMP!

NO ONE CARES.

JUMP!

NO...

YOUR WORLD IS EMPTY!

YOUR LIFE IS PAIN!

DO IT!

JUMP!

RELAX.

NO WORRIES.

NO PRESSURES.

GO ON...

...JUMP.

AHHHH

NO!

WAKK

"...HE'LL ONLY COME WHEN INNOCENT BLOOD'S BEEN SPILT."

NO! THIS ISN'T FAIRRRRR

RRRRRR

NO, DANIEL, IT IS **NOT** FAIR BUT IN A FAIR WORLD, THERE WOULD BE NO PLACE FOR...

VENGEANCE!

U-WIN

FWOOSH

ECHHECH
:URKK:
INNOCENT BLOOD HAS BEEN SPILT, AND I SENSE YOUR HANDIWORK IN IT.
VENGEANCE SHALL BE SERVED.
THIS IS FAR FROM OVER, SPIRIT!
I'M O'SPRYTE, SERVANT OF O'SPAYRE.
MINE IS BUT ONE OF THE WHISPERS FROM THE DARKNESS
WHEREVER THERE IS A BROKEN WILL WHOSE PLEAS ARE VOICED INTO THE ETHER, THERE WILL BE A O'SPRYTE.
MY KIND IS LEGION.
EH?
FLAP FLAP FLAP FLAP FLAP FL

THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF YOUR KIND!

NO MATTER!

HEH

HEH

HEH

HEH

NOTHING SHALL KEEP ME FROM METING OUT VENGEANCE!

RUNCH

CONCLUDES NEXT ISSUE:

FALLEN SPIRITS

MARVEL COMICS

TM

© 1992 MARVEL ENT GROUP INC

$1.50 US
$1.80 CAN
99
UK 80p

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

MARVEL® COMICS PRESENTS™

GHOST

JUST

CLICK

ENOUGH

TIME

KASH

TO...

GHOST RIDER in FALLEN SPIRITS

WHISH HH!!

...TRY ONE OF SPIDER-MAN'S TACTICS.

KOOM!

IT PROVES WOE-FULLY INEFFECTIVE.

FLAP FLAP FLAP FLAP FLAP FLAP

LOOK, HE LIVES!

COME THEN, D'SPRYTES. LET ME SHARE WITH YOU...

NOT FOR LONG!

ALL OF YOU NOW, FOLLOW MY LEAD!

...ALL OF THE *PAIN* YOU'VE INFLICTED ON OTHERS.

PAIN? WE ARE SERVANTS OF D'SPAYRE, SPIRIT!

WE THRIVE ON PAIN! DO YOU?!

ARGHHHH!

RIIP

RIIPP

WRASH

JUST BONE AND HELLFIRE. HAS YOUR FRAME NO *MEAT* TO IT, SPIRIT?

MORE THAN ENOUGH TO FINISH YOU AND YOURS, DEMON!

VENGEANCE WILL BE SERVED!

HOLY! HE'S TALKING TO HIMSELF!

CRAZY NUTTER!

SOMEONE SHOULD DO SOMETHING!

PSTPSTPSTP

WHAT ARE YOU YELLING ABOUT, YOU NUT?!

DEMONS! THEY'RE EVERYWHERE, TELLING YOU WHAT TO DO!

AH, PAY NO ATTENTION TO HIM--

HE'S JUST A BUM!

DEAR GOD, ARE YOU ALL BLIND? CAN'T YOU SEE WHAT THEY'RE UP TO?!

HE'S JUST A BUM!

ENOUGH!

THIS HAS GONE ON LONG EN-

WAKK

MONSTER!
MISFIT!
FREAK!
YOU'VE TERRORIZED THIS CITY LONG ENOUGH!
GET HIM!
KEEP YOUR DISTANCE! NOTHING WILL KEEP ME FROM MY PATH OF VENGEANCE!
THESE MORTALS ARE MALICIOUS, RUTHLESS, READY TO ATTACK.
SOMETHING IS NOT RIGHT.
THEY'RE OURS, SPIRIT.
THEIR MINDS, SO WEAK--
--A LITTLE "VOICE" IS ALL THEY NEED HEAR, TO BE PUSHED IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.
AND IN A MOB, THEY ARE SUCH THE SHEEP.
SO WHOSE SLAUGHTER SHALL IT BE, SPIRIT? YOURS OR THEIRS?
I SHALL HARM NO INNOCENTS.
"THOUGHT YOU'D SAY THAT, SUCKER!"

WHAT IN HADES?!

IT'S AN *EARTHQUAKE!* A *FREAKIN'* EARTHQUAKE!

RUUMBBLE

CHOOM

ZOARRRR

IT'S COMING RIGHT AT US! GET BACK, MAN!

ROARR

ROARRR

MY BIKE WILL KEEP THEM AT A DISTANCE...

...BUT ONLY FOR SO LONG.

ADMIT *DEFEAT*, SPIRIT. YOU CAN NOT HARM THE INNOCENTS YOU'RE SWORN TO PROTECT!

LEAVE NOW AND SPARE YOURSELF FURTHER *SUFFERING.*

WHRR

I LEAVE...

WHEN

IT'S

OVER

SH

UCH

CLL

RAK

CH-TKK

HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON?

OH, MAN, MY HEAD!

LOOK AT THE TIME!

WHAT AM I DOING HERE

THE SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE IS NO LONGER NEEDED HERE.

COME, DANIEL KETCH, IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO RETURN--

--TO THIS MORTAL WORLD.

ROAR

FWOOSH!

SO THAT'S IT?!

A MAN DIES, GHOST RIDER BEATS UP SOME DEMONS, AND IT'S OVER?!

SCREACH

EVEN MY CUT'S MYSTICALLY HEALED. NOTHING'S CHANGED. NO GOOD HAS COME OF ALL THIS.

MAYBE IT ISN'T UP TO GHOST RIDER THIS TIME. MAYBE IT'S UP TO ME.

HOMELESS COLD AND HUNGRY Please Help!

HEY, YOU OKAY, GUY?

Huh?

JUST WANTED TO KNOW IF YOU WERE OKAY.

YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU COULD USE SOMEONE TO TALK TO.

YEAH...

THAT'D BE NICE.

END.

© 1992 MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC.

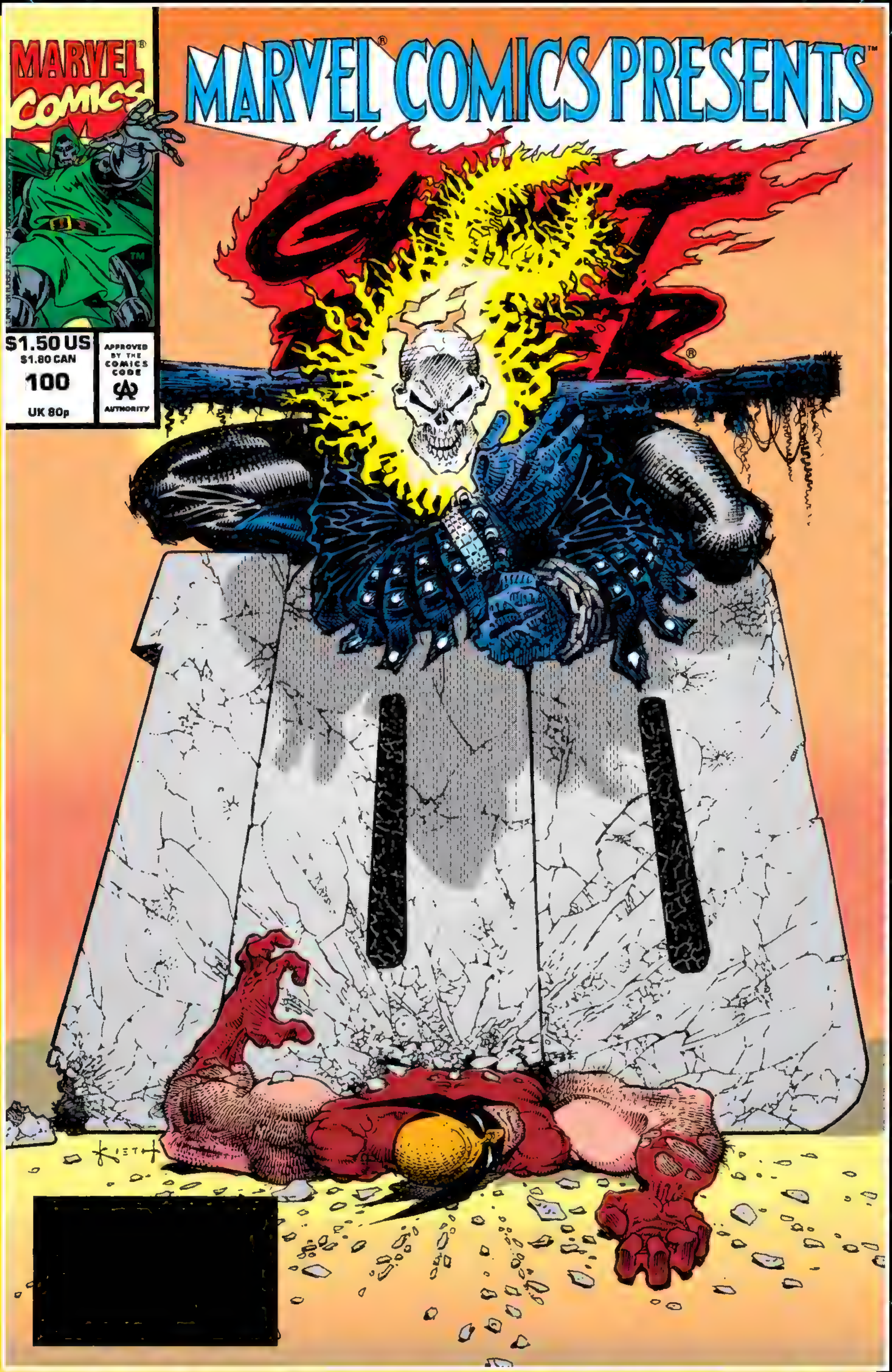
$1.50 US
$1.80 CAN/UK 80p
100
CC 02214
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS™

WOLVERINE®

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #100

WRITER: **HOWARD MACKIE** • ARTIST: **SAM KIETH** • ART ASSIST: **TIM VIGIL**
COLORIST: **GLYNIS OLIVER** • LETTERER: **JANICE CHIANG**
ASSISTANT EDITOR: **MARK POWERS** • EDITOR: **TERRY KAVANAGH**



MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #100 BACK COVER

DREAMS OF DOOM

CHAPTER 1

LATVERIA...

ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL MONARCHIES IN THE WORLD...

NOT BECAUSE OF ITS VAST TERRITORY--

--OR BECAUSE OF A LARGE NUCLEAR ARSENAL.

LATVERIA IS POWERFUL BECAUSE OF ONE MAN--

--DR. VICTOR VON DOOM, ABSOLUTE RULER OF THE COUNTRY AND OF ALL AROUND HIM.

TONIGHT, DOOM RESTS IN HIS PRIVATE QUARTERS.

HE SLEEPS DESPITE THE STORM THAT RAGES OUTSIDE HIS WINDOW.

FORCES OF NATURE DO NOT DISTURB DR. DOOM.

NOTHING DISTURBS DOOM.

DOOM CONTROLS EVERYTHING AROUND HIM.

HIS KINGDOM.

HIS PEOPLE.

THROUGH HIS HI-TECH ARMOR, HIS PERSONAL ENVIRONMENT.

EVERYTHING IS UNDER DOOM'S CONTROL.

CONTROL IS EVERYTHING TO DOOM.

IF CONFRONTED WITH SOMETHING HE CANNOT CONTROL--

--DOOM DESTROYS IT.

VICTOR! IS THAT YOU, VICTOR?

IT IS NO MORE THAN A PASSING THOUGHT. IT SWEEPS THROUGH ME.

COME ON, VICTOR. I'M TALKING TO YOU. LET'S NOT BE RUDE. I AM NOT GOING AWAY!

THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE!

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE HERE, VICTOR.

YOU MAY TRY AND SHUT ME OUT WITH YOUR MIND CONTROL TRICKS, BUT THE TRUTH IS YOUR MEDITATIONS AND YOUR SCIENTIFIC STUNTS HAVE BROUGHT YOU CLOSER TO MY REALM THAN YOU THINK.

CLOSER TO THE REALM OF--

--NIGHTMARE!

YOU DARE?

I AM VICTOR VON DOOM, RULER OF--

DO YOU KNOW WITH WHOM YOU TRIFLE?

YES. YES. I KNOW, VIC!

WE GO THROUGH THIS EVERY TIME. YOU ARE DR. DOOM, MONARCH OF LATVERIA, AND I AM NIGHTMARE, LORD OF THE NIGHTMARE DIMENSION!

THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER IS YOU AND I ARE OLD OLD FRIENDS.

YOU'VE BEEN VISITING MY NIGHTMARE REALM EVER SINCE YOU WERE A LITTLE BOY.

WHY I REMEMBER THAT ONE ABOUT YOUR MOTHER AND THE--

NEVER SPEAK OF MY MOTHER!

SHRAZZT

RELAX.

THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO HERE TO REALLY HURT ME. JUST GIVE IN TO YOUR FEARS.

LET'S RELEASE SOME OF THOSE INNER DEMONS. YOU ALL HAVE THEM--YOU HUMANS.

THE THINGS THAT CAUSE YOU YOUR DEEPEST INNER PAIN. THEY ARE MY FOOD.

MY VERY SUSTENANCE.

THE GARDEN VARIETY NIGHTMARE NEVER DOES WORK ON YOU.

FOR YOU, WE NEED SOMETHING SPECIAL.

TIME TO PROBE DEEP INTO THAT ARMOR-COVERED PSYCHE OF YOURS AND SEE WHAT WE CAN COME UP WITH.

ALL YOU HUMANS HAVE YOUR WEAKNESSES.

YOUR FEARS.

CHINKS IN YOUR ARMOR.

AND DESPITE ALL YOUR EFFORTS TO THE CONTRARY, YOU ARE ONLY HUMAN, VICTOR.

NOW THIS IS MORE LIKE IT! THE *FANTASTIC FOUR!*

BUT THEY DON'T LOOK SO SCARY TO ME!

LET'S SEE WHAT ELSE WE CAN COME UP WITH...

NO.

NO MORE.

I AM IN CONTROL.

SEE YOU SOON, VIC!

IN CONTROL.

I AM IN CONTROL.

I WILL NOT *TOLERATE* THESE INVASIONS ANY LONGER.

LORD DOOM, I--

DRESS YOURSELF APPROPRIATELY, WOMAN. THIS DOES NOT PLEASE ME.

DOCTOR TINNER! I WOULD HAVE WORDS WITH YOU.

YES, LORD.

YOU HAVE FAILED ME. YOUR DEVICE HAS FAILED ME. I HAVE BEEN INVADED AGAIN.

YES, MY LORD. IT WAS ALL MY FAULT. MY ONLY CONSOLATION WAS THAT THE FAIL-SAFE DEVICE ALLOWED YOU TO AWAKEN.

PLEASE ALLOW ME TO TAKE MY OWN LIFE AND--

NO.

YOU WILL CONTINUE YOUR WORK. YOUR PUNISHMENT WILL BE DISCUSSED AT A LATER DATE.

AN ACOLYTE IN AN ORDER OF TIBETAN MYSTICS I HAVE LED IN THE PAST...

FROM NOW ON YOU WILL WORK UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THIS ONE.

DO NOT FAIL ME, MONK. I WANT RESULTS BEFORE NEXT SLEEP.

OF COURSE, MASTER.

ALL IS ALREADY UNDERWAY.

SLAM

CHAPTER 2

SOMETHING DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT.

WHERE AM I?

AND WHY AM I--

--TRANSFORMING--

--INTO--

--GHOST RIDER?!

VENGEANCE MUST BE--
ARGH! THE PAIN!
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
SO MUCH PAIN!
MORE THAN USUAL.
--OF--
--CONTROL!
--OUT--
TRANSFORMATION--
WHOSE NIGHTMARE IS IT ANYWAY?!

THE TRANSFORMATIONS HAVE STOPPED.

THIS HAS GOT TO BE SOME SORT OF BAD DREAM.

GOT TO GET AWAY FROM THE BIKE.

COULDN'T TAKE THE PAIN OF ANOTHER TRANS--

WHO THE--?

DR. DOOM!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN MY DREAM?

SILENCE!

YOU ARE NOT THE ONE I SEEK! WHO ARE YOU, BOY?

SORRY, DOC, BUT MOTHER TOLD ME NEVER TO TALK TO STRANGE FOREIGN DICTATORS--

TELL ME WHERE TO FIND THE ONE I SEEK!

DO I LOOK LIKE ONE WITH WHOM TO TRIFLE?

--ESPECIALLY NOT IN MY *DREAMS*!

COME HERE, BOY!

WHERE IS *GHOST RIDER*?

OH, YOU WANT *GHOST RIDER*?

THIS NOSE-BLEED YOU GAVE ME MAY DO THE TRICK--

-- THOUGH I DOUBT IT WOULD WORK IN ANYTHING BUT A DREAM!

HERE HE COMES!

VENGEANCE!

EXCELLENT.

GHOST RIDER, WE MUST TALK!

NO TALK.

TCHUNK

VERY WELL.

FRZATT

ANOTHER TRANSFORMATION.

I SEE, BOY, THAT YOU AND *GHOST RIDER* ARE SOMEHOW LINKED.

DANIEL! VICTOR! THIS *IS* A PLEASURE.

PERHAPS I *CAN* TALK TO YOU.

HEY, THIS IS MY DREAM!

I'M DONE WITH YOU AND YOUR TRANSFORMATIONS.

THOUGH I DON'T QUITE UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE DOING HERE--AND I SHOULD--OH, WELL, LET'S MAKE THE BEST OF IT!

BRING ON THE DANCING GIRLS, A DRAGON OR SOMETHING.

THE BOY DID WANT A DRAGON, AFTER ALL.

CHILD, DO NOT TOY WITH ME! I HAVE NEED OF *GHOST RIDER*. BRING HIM BACK. THIS IS NOT A GAME.

THERE WILL BE NO DRAGONS--!

FWOOM

SEE, BOY, THIS IS WHY I HAVE NEED OF *GHOST RIDER!*

THIS IS NO DREAM. THIS IS A--

NIGHTMARE!

HOW?

STOP ASKING SUCH INSIPID QUESTIONS, CHILD!

SUMMON *GHOST RIDER* IF YOU CAN.

I WOULD HAVE HIS ASSISTANCE!

THOUGH IT DOESN'T MATTER.

THE GREAT *DR. DOOM* NEEDS ASSISTANCE! OH MY...

...WHAT TRICKS ARE YOU UP TO, DOOM?

IN MY REALM, I REIGN SUPREME.

EVEN AGAINST THE MIGHTY *GHOST RIDER.*

THOUGH PERHAPS YOU WILL TAKE ME UP ON MY LAST OFFER AND JOIN ME!

OH, THE NIGHTMARES WE COULD INSPIRE...

NEVER!

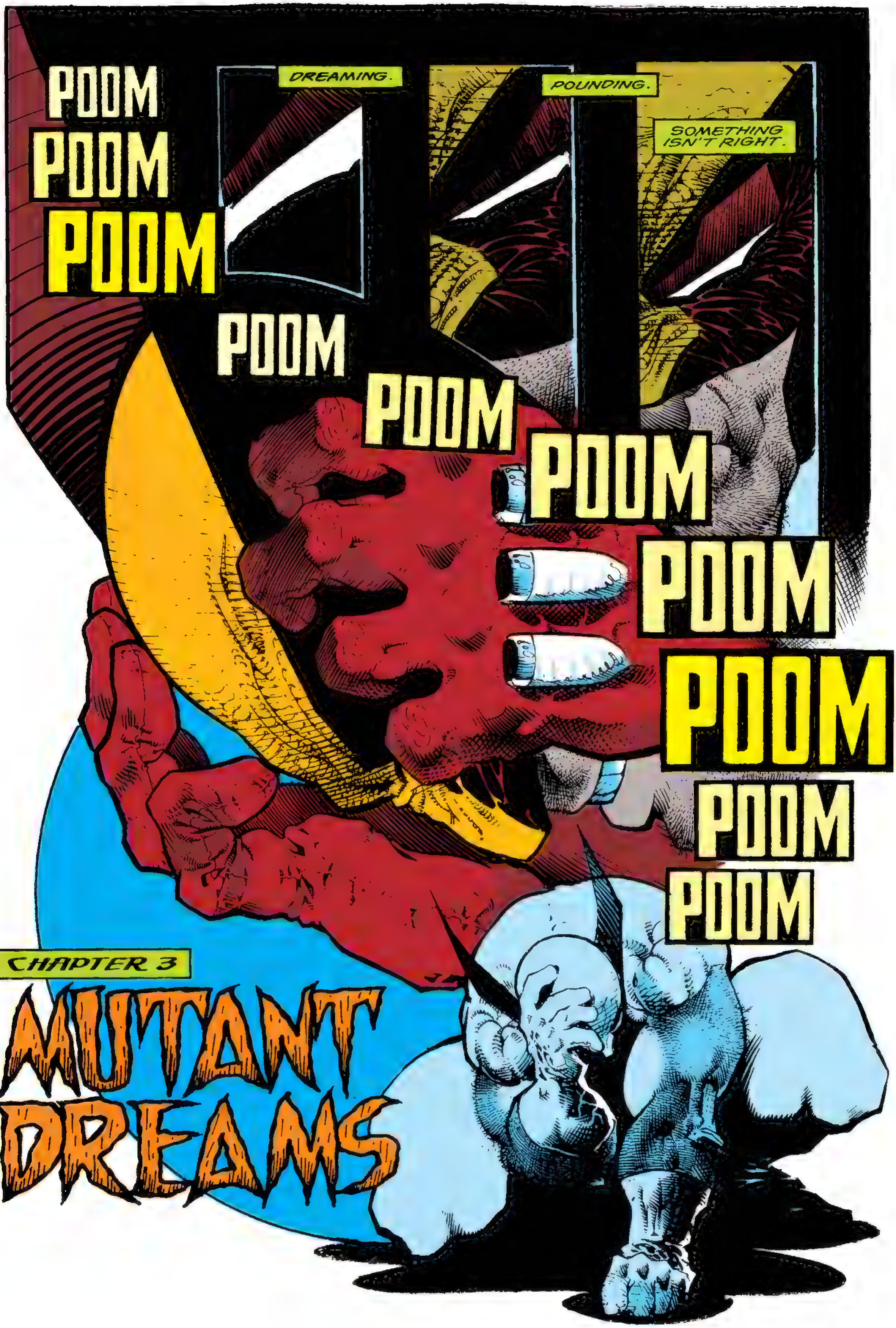
OOF!

THIS KIND OF THING IS NOT SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN.

THIS IS YOUR DOING, DOOM. WHAT MAGICKS ARE AT WORK HERE?

WHO DO YOU HAVE HELPING YOU? I WILL FIND OUT, DR. DOOM. THIS WAR AND YOUR PSYCHE WILL NOT SURVIVE THE ENCOUNTER.

I WOULD HAVE A WORD WITH YOU, *GHOST RIDER*.


POOM
POOM
POOM
DREAMING.
POUNDING.
SOMETHING ISN'T RIGHT.
POOM
POOM
POOM
POOM
POOM
POOM
POOM
POOM
POOM
POOM
POOM
CHAPTER 3
MUTANT DREAMS

ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON.

SNIKT

THE GREAT THING ABOUT DREAMS IS THAT YOU CAN CUT THROUGH THE DARK AND STEP STRAIGHT INTO--

--NINETEENTH CENTURY PARIS?

NICE, BUT WHY?

DOOM!

YES. I DIDN'T THINK THE POUNDING WAS WORKING.

WE NEED TO TALK, WOLVERINE!

YEAH, RIGHT!

NOT EVEN IN MY DREAMS DO I *TALK* TO THE LIKES OF YOU.

TCHINK

AACK!

SNIFF SNIFF HELLFIRE. GHOST RIDER'S HERE, TOO!

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? WHAT KIND OF DREAM IS THIS?

THIS IS NO DREAM, WOLVERINE. WE ARE IN THE REALM OF NIGHTMARE.

YEAH. SO?

OKAY, VIC, HOW ABOUT YOU TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON?

NIGHTMARE. YOU HAVE HEARD OF HIM?

YEAH, ALREADY!

IT SEEMS THAT HE HAS SET HIS SIGHTS UPON EACH OF US. FOR WHAT REASON I DO NOT KNOW, BUT MY FEELING IS THAT WE BEST WORK TOGETHER TO DEFEAT HIM.

I'M GAME. TILL I FIND OUT WHAT THE REAL STORY IS HERE.

PSST! WOLVERINE!

I'LL TELL YOU *EXACTLY* WHAT THE REAL STORY IS!

IT SEEMS THE GOOD DOCTOR HAS TAKEN IT UPON HIMSELF TO--

SILENCE.

WHAT'S THE MATTER, VIC? THE TRUTH HURT?

YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN DEFEAT ME?

I SAID-- *SILENCE!*

I CONTROL *EVERYTHING* AROUND YOU.

GO FOR IT, DOC!

TIME FOR ME TO DO WHAT I DO BEST!

I GUESS THIS ISN'T A DREAM AFTER ALL.

BOOTA BOOTA BOOTA BOOTA BOOTA BOOTA

TAT DA TAT DA TAT DA

POW! POP BANG!

UH OH!

BUT I COULD THINK OF WORSE LOCATIONS.

WHAT A DREAM.

NIGHTMARE, IT'S TIME YOU AND I HAD A HEART TO HEART!

WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME? WHY AM I HERE?

SLAM

DON'T ASK ME!

I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT -- THIS TIME!

BUT IN THE FUTURE...

YOU DO GIVE A GOOD FIGHT SCENE!

YOU'RE RATHER GLIB FOR A CREATURE THAT THRIVES ON FEAR, NIGHTMARE--

THUK!

--I HATE GLIB!

IN THIS CASE I CAN AFFORD TO BE.

AS I KEEP TELLING YOU, I DIDN'T BRING YOU HERE.

BUT THIS IS PROVING TO BE RATHER INTERESTING.

I DON'T GIVE A FROG'S WARTS! I'M CUTTING YOU DOWN!

YES...BRING HIM DOWN! KILL HIM!

GHOST RIDER, JOIN US!

RRRMMBLE

TIME FOR ANSWERS.

PERHAPS YOU SHOULD ASK GOOD OLD VICTOR. HE'S THE CHAP THAT BROUGHT THE TWO OF YOU HERE.

NOT AGAIN!

HOW DO THEY KEEP DOING THIS?

DOOM?

NO.

THE LAST TIME I DID THIS IT HURT A LOT, BUT WHAT THE HECK--

--IT'S ONLY A DREAM!

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

CHAPTER 4

AWAKENINGS

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

THE ADAMANTIUM AND HELLFIRE ARE REACTING.

SHOOTING OUT.

UNRAVELING MY REALM!

THIS IS YOUR DOING!

STOP THEM!

NO.

GHOST RIDER! WOLVERINE!

LOOK WHAT DOOM HAS DONE TO YOU!

HERE HE APPROACHES YOU AS ALLIES.

BUT ON THE EARTHLY PLANE, HE AND HIS SORCERER MINION ARE USING YOU AS PAWNS!

USING HIS COMBAT DRONES TO CAPTURE YOU, HE HAS HOOKED UP THE ARCANE TECHNOLOGY THAT ALLOWED HIM TO BRING YOU TO MY REALM.

HE WISHES TO SLAY ME!

DO AWAY WITH THE REALM OF NIGHTMARE!

I SERVE A PURPOSE, DOOM.

A PURPOSE THAT YOU CANNOT OVERCOME WITH YOUR TECHNOLOGY--

--OR YOUR SORCERY.

NIGHTMARES ARE THE RELEASE OF ALL YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS FEARS.

I FEED ON THOSE FEARS.

TRUE I DO ALWAYS WANT MORE, BUT WHAT I TAKE DOES SERVE ITS PURPOSE.

DESTROY ME, DOOM, AND YOU WILL ALL BE INSANE WITHIN A WEEK.

HE SEEKS TO PROTECT HIMSELF FROM THE NIGHTMARES THAT HAVE PLAGUED HIM SINCE CHILDHOOD.

DOOM, YOU WILL DESTROY THE WORLD TO PROTECT YOU FROM YOUR OWN MIND.

I ONLY FEED ON WHAT IS THERE ALREADY. YOU CANNOT CONTROL YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS FEARS!

I WILL CONTROL ALL!

NO. YOU CANNOT EVEN CONTROL THOSE YOU SOUGHT TO USE AS PAWNS.

THEIR WILLS ARE TOO STRONG.

AS STRONG AS YOURS.

EVEN AS THEIR FIGHT IS WEAKENING HERE--

--THEY ARE AWAKENING ON THE EARTHLY PLANE.

YOUR COMBAT DRONES ARE NOTHING AGAINST THEM.

DID YOU REALLY THINK YOU COULD SUCCEED?

WOLVERINE AND GHOST RIDER CANNOT BE CONTROLLED.

TONIGHT YOU HAVE MADE TWO VERY POWERFUL ENEMIES.

TWO MORE TO JOIN THE REALM OF YOUR NIGHTMARES.

NO!

YOU HAVE FAILED ME, MONK!

YOU PROMISED ME PROTECTION.

PROTECTION FROM ATTACK BY THE NIGHTMARE CREATURE.

I CANNOT ABIDE HAVING A CHINK IN MY ARMOR.

WE WERE TO DESTROY NIGHTMARE THROUGH THE USE OF *GHOST RIDER* AND *WOLVERINE*.

TWO INDIVIDUALS WHOSE MINDS YOU SENSED WERE ALREADY CONDITIONED TO BE IMMUNE TO *NIGHTMARE'S* POWERS.

YOU WERE WRONG.

NOW YOU MUST--

DEAD.

A BACKLASH OF FEAR.

SUITABLE PUNISHMENT FOR NOW.

I'M COMING BACK FOR YOU, DOOM.

ME AND GHOST RIDER AND WOLVERINE.

HAHAHA!

END.

HERE'S TO ANOTHER ONE HUNDRED ISSUES OF MARVEL® COMICS PRESENTS

1013

MARVEL COMICS

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS™

GHOST RIDER

AND

DR. STRANGE®

TM
© 1992 MARVEL ENT. GROUP, INC.

$1.50 US
$1.80 CAN
101
UK 80p

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #101-106

WRITER: **HOWARD MACKIE** • PENCILER: **RICK LEONARDI** • INKER: **JIMMY PALMIOTTI**
COLORISTS: **FREDDY MENDEZ** (#101-103, #105-106) & **ARIANE LENSHOEK** (#104)
LETTERERS: **JANICE CHIANG** (#101-103, #105), **STEVE DUTRO** & **DAVE SHARPE** (#104)
AND **MICHAEL HIGGINS** (#106) • ASSISTANT EDITOR: **MARK POWERS** • EDITOR: **TERRY KAVANAGH**

DOORWAY TO DARKNESS CHAPTER 1 OF 6

RUNNING

GHOST RIDER, THE SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE, RIDES HIS MYSTICAL MOTORCYCLE IN THE MIDST OF A STREET GANG.

THEIR INNOCENT VICTIM'S BLOOD STILL PULSES FROM HER BODY, STAINING THE BROOKLYN SIDEWALK.

INNOCENT BLOOD.

GHOST RIDER

DR. STRANGE

IN RECENT MONTHS, SIMILAR SCENES HAVE BEEN PLAYED OUT, OVER AND OVER AGAIN, ON THE STREETS OF BROOKLYN.

FREQUENTLY, GHOST RIDER IS THERE TO AVENGE THE BLOOD OF THE INNOCENT.

TONIGHT, 10 YEAR OLD KEVIN MORAN OBSERVES WHAT MANY HAVE ONLY READ ABOUT.

THIS ISN'T THE FIRST TIME KEVIN HAS SEEN GHOST RIDER IN ACTION.

HE'S BEEN SEARCHING FOR HIM EVER SINCE HE SAW HIS PICTURE IN THE PAPER.

THREE TIMES HE'S FOUND HIM.

AND, AS ALWAYS, GHOST RIDER'S VENGEANCE IS SWIFT...

...AND OFTEN BRUTAL, BUT ALWAYS...

...WELL-DESERVED.

OH, NO!

HE SEES ME!

GOT TO RUN!

I CAN RUN WITH THE BEST OF THEM.

BEEN RUNNING ON THE STREETS FOR A YEAR.

I'M GOOD AT RUNNING.

RUNNING HELPS ME FORGET!

FORGET THAT NIGHT...

L...a!

THE DOOR...

MOMMY!

DADDY!

THE FIRE!

NOOOOO!

RUN!

FORGET!

GO TO MY NEW HOME.

SOAK

AWAY FROM THE DRINKING.

AWAY FROM THE FIGHTING.

AWAY FROM THE FIRE. THE FIRE... GHOST RIDER?

NO! CAN'T BE!

GOT TO GET OUTSIDE. AWAY FROM ALL THE DOORS.

SOMETHING SCARY WAS ALWAYS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOORS...

...BUT NOT HERE. NOT IN THE SWAMPS AROUND KENNEDY AIRPORT.

NO MORE DOORS.

NO MORE SURPRISES--!

NO!

NO DOORS!

WHAT IS IT DOING HERE?

I HATE DOORS!

HEY, KID, WHAT'S WRONG?

YOU AIN'T AFRAID OF NO DOORS, ARE YOU?

THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF, KEV!

THERE'S LOTS OF RAD THINGS ON THE OTHER SIDE! GO ON! LOOK FOR YOURSELF!

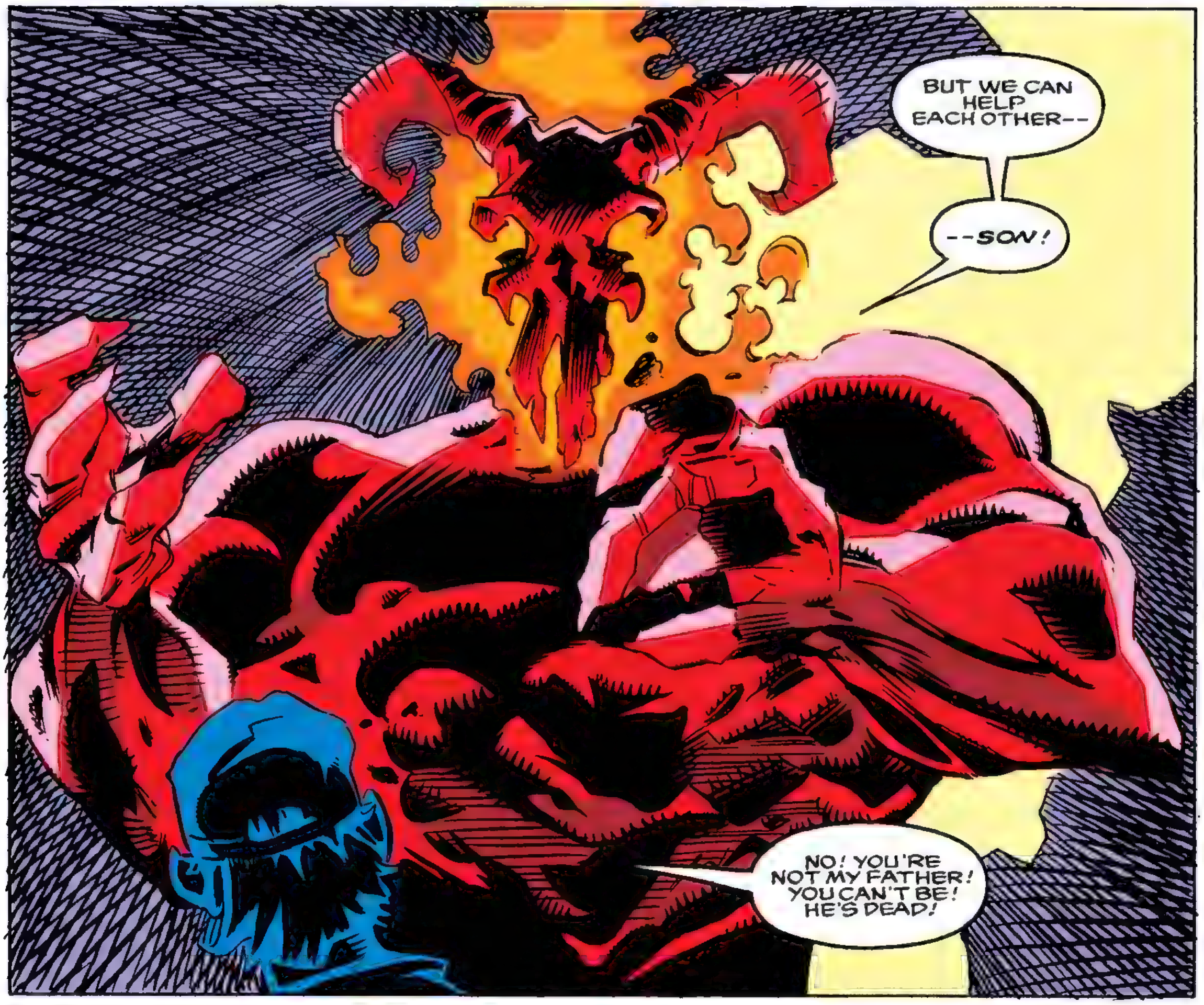
NO, I DON'T...

GO ON!

NOOOO!

W-WHO ARE YOU--?
COME CLOSER, BOY.

NO!
GET AWAY! YOUR HEAD-- THE FIRE!
YOUR HEAD!


BUT WE CAN HELP EACH OTHER--
--SON!
NO! YOU'RE NOT MY FATHER! YOU CAN'T BE! HE'S DEAD!

ARE YOU SO SURE?

COME, TALK TO ME. GIVE ME YOUR HAND.

NO.

GOT TO RUN AGAIN!

RUN!

RUN!

COME BACK!

OOOF!

WHERE AM I NOW?

THIS HAS GOT TO BE ALL A DREAM!

THAT'S IT-- A NIGHTMARE! LIKE BEFORE!

ALL THESE DOORS...

IT'S OPENING.

WHO NOW?

COME, BOY! ENTER THE SANCTUM SANCTORUM OF--

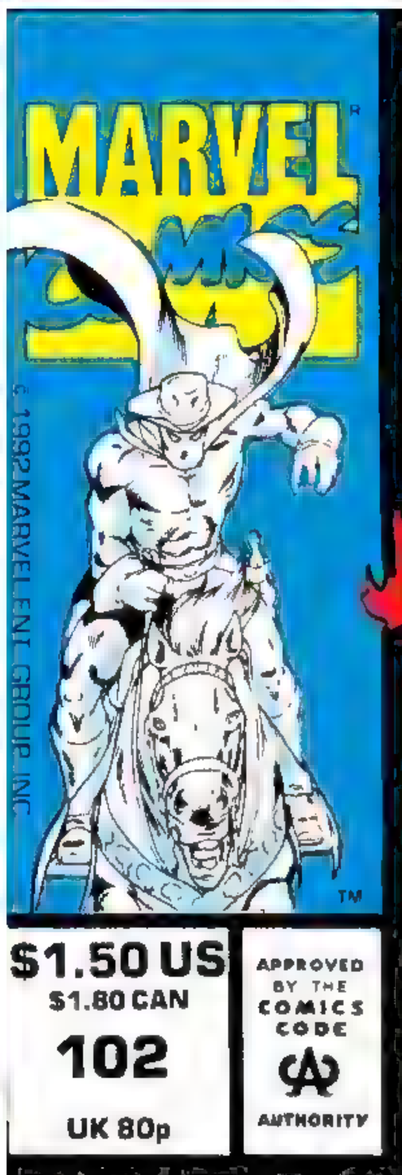
DR. STRANGE

IT WAS I WHO BROUGHT YOU HERE!

YOU ARE LINKED TO A DISTURBANCE IN THE MYSTICAL REALMS.

AND I WOULD HAVE ANSWERS.

CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE . . .



$1.50 US
$1.80 CAN
102
UK 80p

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS™

GHOST RIDER AND DR. STRANGE®

DOORWAY TO DARKNESS • CHAPTER 2

GATHERING

FOOLS!

YOU LET THE BOY ESCAPE!

B-BUT, GORN...

REVERT TO YOUR TRUE FORMS WHEN ADDRESSING ME!

NO EARTHLING SHOULD EVER KNOW MY TRUE NAME!

GHOST RIDER

AND

DR. STRANGE

YOU PUSHED HIM THROUGH THE DOORWAY.

YOU KNEW HE MUST ENTER BY HIMSELF IF I AM TO USE HIM TO ESCAPE THIS PLACE!

HE IS MY KEY!

YES, GORN!

YOU'RE RIGHT, GORN!

OF COURSE, GORN!

SILENCE!

KRAK

THE SIGHT AND SOUND OF YOU OFFENDS ME!

NOW FIND ME THE BOY! AND DO WHATEVER YOU NEED TO GET HIM TO ENTER THE DOORWAY! DO NOT FAIL ME--

--OR NEXT I WILL TAKE MORE THAN YOUR HEAD!

CRUNCH

GREENWICH VILLAGE...

SPEAK TO ME, SON!

YOU ARE SAFE HERE.

YOU ARE AFRAID TO ENTER MY SANCTUM SANCTORUM...

...AND YOU ARE AFRAID OF OTHER THINGS AS WELL.

WE MUST SPEAK IF I AM TO HELP YOU.

I WAS IN MEDITATION WHEN I SENSED A DISTURBANCE IN THE MYSTIC REALM THROUGH THE ALL-SEEING *EYE OF AGAMOTTO*.

I WAS ABLE TO PULL YOU FROM THE SOURCE OF THE DISTURBANCE BEFORE THE DOORWAY SLAMMED SHUT.

WHAT DID YOU SEE, BOY?

KEVIN.

GOOD.

KEVIN, WHAT DID YOU SEE...?

A MONSTER.

HIS SKULL ON FIRE.

SKULL ON FIRE?

GHOST RIDER? HAVE YOU SEEN GHOST RIDER? DOES HE HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THIS?

YEAH...

I CAN HELP YOU, IF YOU ALLOW ME.

WILL YOU COME WITH ME TO FIND *GHOST RIDER*?

GHOST RIDER DIDN'T HURT YOU, DID HE?

NO.

GOOD. THEN PERHAPS HE TRULY IS NOT ZARATHOS. BUT SOMETHING IS AFOOT AND *GHOST RIDER* AND YOU ARE INVOLVED.

SO, FIRST WE MUST FIND HIM!

DON'T BE AFRAID KEVIN. MY *CLOAK OF LEVITATION* WILL SAFELY KEEP US ALOFT.

EAST NEW YORK, BROOKLYN...

VENGEANCE.

I AM DRIVEN TO AVENGE THE SPILLING OF INNOCENT BLOOD.

BUT THE FORCE THAT DRIVES ME IS STILL UNKNOWN.

POLICE HAVE MY QUARRY CONTAINED.

WHERE'S THE BACK UP? WE CALLED FOR IT TEN MINUTES AGO!

THEY WOULD ARREST HIM FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE.

IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD, WE'LL BE LUCKY IF THEY FIND US TODAY!

I'M NOT GOING INTO THAT CRACK HOUSE WITH THESE PEA SHOOTERS.

YEAH, THOSE GUYS CARRY AUTOMATIC WEAPONS.

THEIR PUNISHMENT IS NOT ENOUGH.

SHOULD WE STOP HIM?

ARE YOU STUPID?

NEVER ENOUGH. NEVER ENOUGH.

STAY BACK, MAN, OR YOU'RE MEAT!

GUNS AND STEEL DOORS...

BUDDA BUDDA

TCHINK

FWOMP

...NEITHER WILL STOP MY VENGEANCE.

THEY SEEK TO PROTECT ONE OF THEIR OWN.

A USER OF THEIR DRUGS.

KILLING HIMSELF WITH THE CHEMICALS MEANS NOTHING TO ME.

BUT TODAY HE KIDNAPED A YOUNG GIRL, AN INNOCENT, OFF THE STREET.

WITNESSES LOOKED ON AS HE DRAGGED HER INTO THE CAR.

BEATING HER.

HE WILL NOT ESCAPE MY WRATH.

THE GIRL.

DEAD.

VENGEANCE!

I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY!

THAT THING IS CRAZY!

HE'LL KILL ME!

TCHAK

NO.

DEATH IS NOT ENOUGH.

YOU MUST FEEL THE PAIN.

NO!

I DIDN'T WANT TO DO IT!

I'M SICK!

THAT'S WHY I DO THE DRUGS, TOO!

I DIDN'T WANT TO HURT HER.

SHE MADE ME. L-LIKE THE OTHERS. THEY ALL--

FREEZE!

WE WANT HIM ALIVE, SO HE CAN TAKE US TO THE GIRL!

SWAT

THEY'LL FIND THE GIRL.

INNOCENT.

BROKEN.

DEAD.

YOU MUST FEEL HER PAIN.

HERS AND ALL THE OTHERS.

AIIIEEEEEE

GHOST RIDER!

I HAVE NEED OF YOU.

NO!

AIIEEEE

STOP!

MAKE IT STOP!

NO!

THE PAIN!

SO MUCH PAIN!

...MORE.

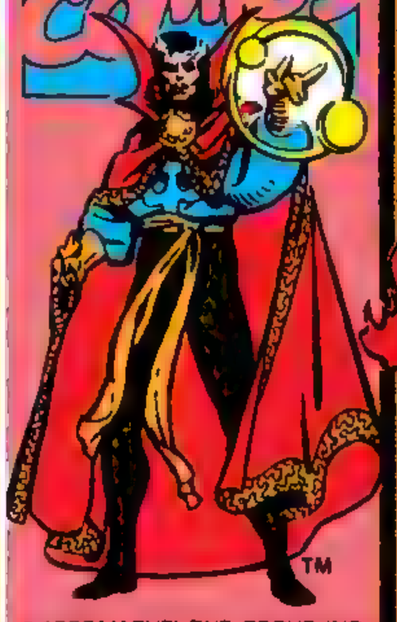
AIIEEEE

NO MORE!

NO...

CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE!

MARVEL COMICS



© 1992 MARVEL ENT GROUP, INC.

$1.50 US
$1.80 CAN
103
UK £1.00

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

MARVEL® COMICS PRESENTS™

GHOST RIDER™

AND

DR. STRANGE®

DOORWAY TO DARKNESS CHAPTER 3:

PAIN

THIRTY SECONDS AGO, **EUGENE STONE**, STOCK BROKER, CRACK ADDICT AND SERIAL KILLER, EXPERIENCED TRUE PAIN.

IN THE PAST HALF MINUTE, **EUGENE** HAS EXPERIENCED ALL THE HURT THAT HE HAS EVER INFLICTED ON A LIVING BEING...

THE **GHOST RIDER'S** PENANCE STARE WAS THE INSTRUMENT OF THIS PAIN.

FROM THE CAT HE KILLED WHEN HE WAS TWELVE TO SARAH PARSON WHO DIED AFTER SEVERAL HOURS OF TORTURE BY **EUGENE**.

SHE WAS HIS FIRST HUMAN KILL.

THERE WERE TOO MANY TO COUNT AFTER THAT.

EUGENE HAS OFTEN RELIVED THOSE DEATHS, BUT THIS TIME...

...HE FEELS THE PAIN OF HIS VICTIMS AS **THEY** FELT IT.

A DIVE OFF THE ROOFTOP WAS HIS ONLY HOPE TO ESCAPE THE AGONY HE FEELS SEARING HIS MIND...HIS SOUL.

EUGENE SEEKS TO ESCAPE HIS PAIN THROUGH DEATH.

GHOST RIDER

DR. STRANGE

WRONG AGAIN, EUGENE.

NO.
IT'S NOT OVER YET.
I'M DYING...
...BROKEN UP INSIDE AND OUT... BUT THE PAIN...
...WANT IT TO STOP! I WANT TO DIE!
WHAT HAVE WE HERE, SLICK?
LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING WE COULD *USE*.
YEP! HE'S CERTAINLY THE TYPE!
LET'S BRING HIM TO *GORN*!
HE'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO!
YOU KNOW, I THINK I LIKE YOU BETTER SINCE HE BIT YOUR HEAD OFF!
YOU ARGUE A LOT LESS!

HIGH ABOVE BROOKLYN...

KEVIN! STOP SQUIRMING!

I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY FROM HIM!

I CANNOT KEEP YOU AND GHOST RIDER ALOFT WITH MY SPELL OF LEVITATION IF YOU KEEP FIGHTING AGAINST IT!

HIS HEAD... THE FIRE...

DR. STRANGE!

I SEE HIM!

HIS HEAD...

HIS HEAD.

THE FIRE.

DADDY?!

MOMMY! WHY?

GORN!

IT WAS ALL MY FAULT!

YOUR MOTORCYCLE HAS FOLLOWED US...

... I CAN LOWER HIM TO IT SAFELY.

GOT TO GET AWAY. RUN AWAY.

I ALWAYS CAUSE SO MUCH TROUBLE.

FOR MYSELF... AND...

ALL THE DOORS!

SO MANY DOORS.

BAD THINGS ALWAYS HAPPEN WHEN I GO THROUGH THE DOORS!

DADDY! HELP ME!

NO DADDIES HERE, KEV!

NO!

JUST US!

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN, BUD? WE'VE MISSED YOU!

NOW WHAT SAY WE TAKE A STEP THROUGH THE OL' DOORWAY AGAIN?

GORN WANTS TO FINISH HIS TALK WITH YOU.

NO.

NO!

COME ON, KEVIN. WE KNOW ALL ABOUT YOUR DADDY AND MOMMY. IT **WAS** YOUR FAULT. NOW YOUR **MOM** IS PAYING FOR WHAT HAPPENED BECAUSE OF YOU! DO IT! **GORN** WILL HELP MAKE IT BETTER!

TCHHNK

YOU'RE STARTIN' TO ANNOY ME, KID! I'M GOING TO HAVE TO...

LEAVE THE CHILD ALONE, DEMON!

DEMON? THAT'S THE POT CALLING THE KETTLE BLACK, ISN'T IT?

BUT IF IT'S A FIGHT YOU WANT...

SLICK GET YOUR HEAD TOGETHER AND SEE IF *GORN* IS DONE WITH *EUGENE*!

GHOST RIDER, BE CAREFUL! THE HEADLESS ONE IS REACHING THROUGH SOME SORT OF DIMENSIONAL DOORWAY. THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT HE WILL PULL FROM THE OTHER SIDE--

PAIN!!!

PAIN.
PAIN.
PAIN.
YOU DID THIS TO ME!
IT WON'T STOP!
I HAVE TO PASS IT ON BACK TO YOU.

YOU ARE THE CHILD KILLER!
NOW I AM ONLY *PAIN!*

COME ON, DOC! LET'S SEE IF YOU LIVE UP TO YOUR REP AS ***SORCEROR SUPREME!***
LET'S SEE HOW YOU DO AGAINST SERVANTS OF ***GORN!***

I DON'T KNOW WHO THIS ***GORN*** IS, BUT PERHAPS AFTER I'VE SUBDUED YOU TWO, YOU WILL LEAD ME TO HIM.
THERE ARE QUESTIONS I WOULD HAVE ANSWERED.

MOMMY WAS RIGHT.
I'M NOTHING BUT TROUBLE.
TROUBLEEEEEEEEE...

YEAH!

THE KID FELL THROUGH THE DOORWAY!

GHOST RIDER! USE YOUR CHAIN TO SNAG *PAIN!*

CLOSE ENOUGH TO *FREE WILL* FOR A TOWN THIS SIZE!

WE'RE OUT OF HERE!

COME ALONG, *EUGENE!* BEFORE THE DOORWAY TO *GORN* CLOSES WITHOUT YOU!

TCHAK

I HAVE BOUND HIM TO US!

HOLD ON!

EVEN I DON'T KNOW WHERE OUR JOURNEY WILL TAKE US!

NEXT ISSUE:
INTO THE REALM OF GORN!

MARVEL COMICS

© 1992 MARVEL ENT GROUP INC

$1.50 US
$1.80 CAN / UK 80p

104

CC 02214

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS™

AND

GHOST RIDER®

DR. STRANGE®

DOORWAY TO DARKNESS

CHAPTER 4 OF 6

THE OTHER SIDE

CHOOSE, KEVIN!

WHICH WILL BE THE DOORWAY TO OUR FREEDOM?

CHOOSE ONE AND GORN WILL HAVE THE REST DISAPPEAR!

GHOST RIDER

DR. STRANGE

NO.
NO MORE DOORS.
I WON'T GO THROUGH ANY MORE DOORS.
ALL THE BAD THINGS HAPPEN WHEN I DO.
MOMMY! DADDY!
FIGHTING.
THE FIRE!
NO!
DADDY!
THE DOORS... GOT TO RUN... GOT TO...
NO MORE RUNNING, KEVIN. IT ISN'T THE DOORS...
...IT'S YOU!
ALL OF IT WAS YOUR FAULT!
DO THIS THING FOR ME AND I'LL MAKE IT ALL BETTER!

ELSEWHERE...

WHERE ARE WE, DOCTOR STRANGE?

WHERE ARE THE BOY AND HIS ABDUCTORS?

I'M NOT SURE YET.

GIVE ME A SECOND TO GET MY BEARINGS. THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT THIS REALM THAT SEEMS FAMILIAR...!

OH.

WE MUST MOVE, GHOST RIDER!

IF WE ARE TO FIND KEVIN AND RETURN HIM SAFELY, WE MUST DO SO QUICKLY...

...AND HOPE THAT I CAN SHIELD OUR PRESENCE HERE FROM THE LORD OF THE REALM.

FOR WE HAVE BEEN PULLED INTO THE REALM OF MEPHISTO!

I SENSE THAT MEPHISTO HAS NO INVOLVEMENT IN THIS MATTER.

FOR IF HE DID, WE WOULD NOT BE SO EASILY TRAVELING IN HIS REALM!

WE MUST FIND THE DEMONS SPIKE AND SLICK AND THEIR SERVANT.

THE ONE KNOWN AS PAIN.

ONLY THEY WILL GIVE US THE ANSWERS WE SEEK...

THERE!

YES! HERE WE ARE, SORCERER!

COME! I NEED TO PASS SOME OF MY AGONY ON TO YOU!

IN THE NAME OF GORN!

AN ADMIRABLE THOUGHT, EUGENE, BUT YOU CAN'T STAND AGAINST THEM AS YOU ARE!

WE'VE GOT TO PREVENT THEM FROM FINDING GORN AND THE BOY FOR AS LONG AS WE CAN!

TAKE A DIVE, EUGENE...

...LET'S SEE WHAT HELP WE CAN COME UP WITH!

NO!

NO MORE PAIN!

I CAN'T STAND ANY MORE!

ALL THESE DEAD HANDS... WHAT ARE THEY DOING...?

LEGIONS OF *MEPHISTO'S* SOULLESS DEAD!

THEY ARE MUTATING *PAIN* FURTHER.

HE EMERGES.

YES.

I.

EMERGE.

TRANS-FORMED.

I.

LEAD.

THE.

SOUL-LESS.

THEIR.

STRENGTH.

MINE.

WE ARE SURROUNDED.

UNFORTUNATELY, OUR ONLY PATH TO KEVIN IS THROUGH THEM.

THEN WE SHALL FIGHT THE DEAD.

AND SEE IF THEY ARE CAPABLE OF EXPERIENCING PAIN!

DADDY. HELP ME.

YOUR FATHER WILL NOT HELP YOU, ***KEVIN.***

IT IS HIS FAULT THAT YOU ARE SUFFERING.

YOUR MOTHER WANTED WHAT WAS RIGHT FOR YOU.

GIVE ME YOUR HAND, BOY. SHOW ME THE DOORWAY.

THEN I WILL SEE TO IT THAT YOU JOIN YOUR FATHER.

YOUR FATHER INTERFERED.

CHOOSE, BOY!

MOMMY! DADDY!

IT HAS TO BE THE BOY!

NO. I WON'T LET YOU!

HE'S ALL THAT I HAVE... HE'S--

ARRRGH!

A SECRET.

MY FAULT.

MOMMY SAID SO.

THAT'S IT, BOY, GO THROUGH THE DOOR-WAY!

NO. HAVE TO RUN. KEEP RUNNING.

OOOF!

GORN!

THE BOY WILL GO FREE!

SORRY, BOSS!

CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE...

MARVEL COMICS

MARVEL® COMICS PRESENTS™

GHOST RIDER®

AND

DR. STRANGE®

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

THE THING®

TM
© 1992 MARVEL ENT GROUP INC

$1.50 US
$1.80 CAN / UK 80p

105

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

CC 02214

DOORWAY TO DARKNESS
PART 5 OF 6

GHOST RIDER

DR. STRANGE

I SEE MY TWO LACKEYS HAVE FAILED IN THEIR ATTEMPTS TO STOP YOU!

BUT THAT DOESN'T MATTER. FOR NOW YOU...

ENTER THE REALM OF GORN!

WITNESS THE POWER WHICH GORN CAN TURN UPON THOSE WHO DISPLEASE HIM!

SPLOOSH

GIVE ME THE CHILD AND I WILL SPARE YOU THE SAME FATE!

LEAVE MY REALM WITH YOUR LIVES! SO COMMANDS GORN!

GORN?

I BARELY RECOGNIZE YOUR NAME FROM THE LIST OF MINOR DEMONS.

WE BOTH KNOW WHO IS THE MASTER OF THIS REALM.

AND DO *NOT* PRESUME TO THREATEN THE EARTH'S *SORCERER SUPREME* WITH PATHETIC DISPLAYS OF STRENGTH.

WE ARE IN A TIME OF GREAT CHANGE, *STRANGE*.

BOTH HERE AND THROUGHOUT ALL THE DIMENSIONS OF MAGIC!

HERE MY MASTER'S TIME IS ALMOST AT AN END.

THE TIME IS RIGHT FOR ME TO TAKE MY LEAVE OF THIS ACCURSED DIMENSION.

TIME FOR ME TO ENTER YOUR WORLD, *STRANGE*...

...AND I CAN ONLY DO SO WITH THE BOY. HE *WILL* BE MINE.

NO, DEMON!

THE BOY WILL SUFFER NO MORE AT YOUR HANDS!

KEVIN'S SUFFERING IS COMING TO AN END, BUT YOURS, GORN...

...IT IS JUST BEGINNING!

ENOUGH, GHOST RIDER.

NOW IT IS TIME FOR GORN TO PROVIDE US WITH SOME ANSWERS!

NEVER, SORCEROR!

YOU WILL TELL ALL, GORN...

...YOU HAVE NO ABILITY TO BLOCK THE POWERS OF THE ALL-SEEING EYE OF AGAMOTTO!

NOW YOUR MIND WILL BE OPENED TO ME.

YES, STRANGE, LOOK UPON THOSE WHO WORSHIP ME AS A GOD ON YOUR DIMENSION!

THROUGH THEM AND THEIR SACRIFICES I HAVE GAINED POWER.

POWER ENOUGH TO SHIELD MY ACTIVITIES FROM MEPHISTO.

THEN I LEARNED THAT THERE WAS A WAY OUT OF THIS PLACE. A WAY TO TAKE MYSELF AWAY FROM MEPHISTO'S COMMAND.

THE TIME WAS RIGHT... WITH THE PROPER KEY!

THE BOY WAS THAT KEY.

THERE IS MAGIC ABOUT THE BOY.

I SENSED IT.

HIS MOTHER, ONE OF MY WORSHIPERS, SENSED IT.

SHE WAS WILLING TO GIVE HIM TO ME.

BUT THE FATHER STOOD IN OUR WAY.

I HAD THE MOTHER DO WHAT SHE HAD TO DO. BUT THE BOY ESCAPED.

I HAVE SOUGHT HIM EVER SINCE.

IT WILL ALL BE OVER SOON, KEVIN.

NOW, GORN, WE WILL TAKE OUR LEAVE.

I SENSE THAT YOUR MASTER IS APPROACHING!

PERHAPS YOU CAN EXPLAIN TO HIM THAT HIS TIME IS COMING TO AN END!

NO! DON'T LEAVE ME HERE TO...

GOA!

M-M-MASTER!

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO, WORM?
N-NOTHING, MASTER!
YOU SEEK TO LIE TO THE PRINCE OF LIARS?
HA HA HA HA HA!
KEVIN, IF YOU ARE READY, I WOULD ASK THAT YOU TAKE US TO YOUR MOTHER!
ONLY THEN CAN YOU TRULY PUT THIS INCIDENT BEHIND YOU!
=SNIFF= YES. I'LL DO IT!
CONCLUDES NEXT ISSUE...

MARVEL COMICS

© 1992 MARVEL ENT GROUP INC

$1.50 US
$1.80 CAN / UK 80p
106
CC 02214
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS™

GHOST RIDER®

AND

DR. STRANGE®

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

GABRIEL, DEVIL-HUNTER™

DOORWAY TO DARKNESS
PART VI

NIGHTTIME IN LONG ISLAND CITY, NEW YORK...

YOU'RE SURE THIS IS THE PLACE, KEVIN?

YES, DOCTOR STRANGE, THIS WAS MY FATHER'S WAREHOUSE. HE LET MY MOTHER USE IT FOR... FOR... HER MEETINGS. THAT WAS BEFORE... BEFORE...

THE FINAL DOORWAY

TONIGHT YOUR FATHER'S DEATH WILL BE AVENGED, BOY!

GHOST RIDER AND DR. STRANGE

SON, YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO THROUGH WITH THIS! YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH MUCH TONIGHT. GHOST RIDER AND I--

NO, SIR. I HAVE TO DO THIS.

I HAVE TO GO IN THERE...

...FOR MY FATHER!

I HAVE TO GO THROUGH ONE MORE DOOR-WAY...

...AND SEE MY MOTHER.

SOME DOORS AREN'T SO EASY TO GO THROUGH FOR ANYONE. NOT BECAUSE WE DON'T KNOW WHAT AWAITS US ON THE OTHER SIDE...

...BUT BECAUSE WE KNOW EXACTLY WHAT IS THERE!

RRRRRRRRR

SERVANTS OF GORN...

PREPARE TO FEEL THE PAIN OF VENGEANCE!

A FALSE DEMON!

HE IS AN ENEMY OF GORMAC...

...THEN HE MUST DIE!

I STRIKE IN THE NAME OF OUR--

--AIEEFEE!

GORMAC, OR GORN, AS HE IS KNOWN IN THE DIMENSION OF DEMONS, IS DEAD...

...IF NOT WORSE.

AND YOUR DEMON WOULD NOT HAVE PROTECTED YOU FROM THE PAIN YOU RECEIVE WHEN COMING IN CONTACT WITH MY MYSTICAL HELLFIRE.

BUT THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF YOUR PAIN.

THIS PLACE REEKS OF THE BLOOD OF THE INNOCENT!

YOUR SACRIFICES TO GORN! NOW...

YOU WILL ALL FEEL THE PAIN THAT YOU HAVE INFLICTED ON OTHERS.

YOU WILL FEEL THE PAIN OF THEIR DEATHS.

YOU WILL WISH THAT IT WERE YOUR OWN.

STAY CLOSE, KEVIN, I WILL SHIELD US FROM ANY HARM.

BUT WE HAVE TO FIND MY...

...MOTHER.

THE BLOOD OF THE INNOCENT HAS BEEN AVENGED,

NOW THEY MAY REST.

MY DUTY HERE IS DONE.

NO, MY FRIEND, WE STILL HAVE ONE LOOSE END TO TIE UP...

...WE MUST FIND KEVIN'S--

KEVIN!

LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE!

THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT!

ALL YOUR FAULT!

YOU'VE ALWAYS RUINED EVERYTHING!

I CURSE THE DAY YOU WERE BORN!

YOU RUINED MY MARRIAGE...

...MY LIFE.

AND YOU KILLED YOUR FATHER!

IF ONLY HE'D HAVE LET ME USE YOU FOR THE ONE THING YOU WERE GOOD FOR!.

IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT!

NO.

NO! NONE OF IT WAS MY FAULT!

IT WAS ALL YOU!

MY FATHER LOVED ME. HE WASN'T PERFECT, BUT HE LOVED ME... AND YOU KILLED HIM.

YOU, MOMMY!

YOU COULD HAVE GIVEN US ALL BETTER. IF YOU HAD LET ME USE YOU TO FREE GORN HE WOULD HAVE GIVEN US ALL WE WANTED.

IT WASN'T MY FAULT!

YOU WANTED TO KILL ME SO THAT YOU COULD HAVE WHAT YOU WANTED.

YOU MADE ME BELIEVE I WAS THE CAUSE OF ALL THE TROUBLE.

IT WAS ALWAYS YOU. YOUR DRINKING! YOUR FIGHTING! YOUR INVOLVEMENT WITH THESE BAD PEOPLE.

DADDY LOVED ME. AND YOU DID THE BAD THING TO HIM.

YOU DID IT, NOT ME. AND NOW YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE TO PAY!

GORN IS DEAD,

AND NOW I'M GOING TO TELL EVERYTHING.

I'M NOT GOING TO BLAME MYSELF ANYMORE.

I'M NOT GOING TO BE ASHAMED ANYMORE.

I LOVED YOU, MOMMY

THE POLICE ARE COMING, KEVIN.

WHEN YOU ARE THROUGH WITH THEM...

...I'LL MAKE SURE YOU ARE HELPED.

THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF DOORS TO WALK THROUGH, BUT YOU WON'T HAVE TO BE AFRAID OF WHAT IS ON THE OTHER SIDE.

YOU WILL BE SAFE, KEVIN. I WILL SEE TO THAT.

YET, KEVIN, I SENSE THAT YOU ARE THE KEY TO A MUCH LARGER MYSTERY WHICH I MUST INVESTIGATE.

BUT YOU HAVE SUFFERED ENOUGH

YOU HAVE WITNESSED PAIN, DEATH AND VENGEANCE...

NOW IS A TIME FOR HEALING.

LEONARDI & PALMIOTTI '92

THE END.

$1.50 US
$1.80 CAN/UK 80p
107
CC 02214
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS

GHOST RIDER

AND

WEREWOLF BY NIGHT™

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

RED WOLF™

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #107-112

WRITER: **CHRIS COOPER** • PENCILER: **JOHN STANISCI**
INKERS: **JIMMY PALMIOTTI** WITH **KEN BRANCH** (#108-112) • COLORIST: **FREDDY MENDEZ**
LETTERERS: **STEVE DUTRO** WITH **MICHAEL HEISLER** (#107)
ASSISTANT EDITOR: **MARK POWERS** • EDITOR: **TERRY KAVANAGH**

GHOST RIDER AND WEREWOLF

IN

RETURN OF THE BRAINEATERS

PART 1

BAD MOON RISING

PROSPECT PARK, BROOKLYN...

NO!

TOO LATE.

MUST MINE ALWAYS BE A MISSION OF *VENGEANCE?*

MUST I ALWAYS ARRIVE *AFTER* THE BLOOD HAS BEEN SPILLED?

VERY WELL, THEN. THOUGH THIS SAVAGED CORPSE LOOKS TO BE A *BEAST'S* DOING, MY PRESENCE HERE MEANS THERE'S *HUMAN* MALICE AT WORK.

MALICE THAT MUST NOW CONTEND WITH THE *SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE!*

THE NEXT DAY...

DAILY BUGLE

KILLER BEAST STRIKES IN BROOKLYN

MUTILATED CORPSE FOUND IN PARK; POLICE DENY LINKS TO JERSEY SLAYINGS

NO!

ANDERSO... FOUND...

KNOW WHAT YA MEAN, PAL--NEVER READS TH' PAPER M'SELF. THE NAME'S AL.

JACK. JACK RUSSELL.

Y'KNOW, JACK, I'Z GOT THIS HUNCH, SEE, THAT YOUSE DON'T LIVE IN MANHATTAN. AM I RIGHT? I SAID, AM I RIGHT?

JUST PASSING THROUGH, AL.

$4.00

YA SEE! I KNOWED IT AGAIN. I WAS GOING WITH THIS GIRL ONCE, FROM BROOKLYN...

I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS. THE BAR'S ALMOST EMPTY... NOBODY LOOKING...

GRRRRRR!

YIKES!

GOTTA LAY OFF THE BOOZE...

I'VE FOLLOWED THEIR BLOODY TRAIL ACROSS THE CONTINENT. THIS TIME...

YA SEE! I KNOWED IT, LESSEE... WHERE YA HEADED?

BROOKLYN.

...THERE'S A WEREWOLF WHO'S GOING TO STOP THEM!

THAT NIGHT...

GO AWAY! LEAVE US ALONE!

BUT DON'T YOU TWO CUTE KIDS KNOW IT'S DANGEROUS HERE IN BROOKLYN? YOU NEED PROTECTION. OF COURSE, IT'LL COST YOU...

YOU... THUG!

VVVRRRRRRUMA

EH?

THE LANGUAGE! I'M A BUSINESSMAN. SO ARE WE GONNA DO BUSINESS...OR DO I HAVE TO TAKE IT OUT OF YOUR PRETTY FA--

HEY! THIS IS MY TURF, YOU--

OH, @#☆%!

I'M OUTTA HERE!

KEEP YOUR PROTECTION MONEY, KIDS--YOU'RE GONNA NEED IT.

HE--HE'S GOING AWAY, CAROL! THANK GOODNESS THOSE GUYS SHOWED UP!

WE DON'T KNOW HOW TO--

--THANK YOU?!

YOUR WORK'S CUT OUT FOR YOU, JACK, OLD BOY-- THIS PARK IS *HUGE!* NO WONDER THE POLICE ARE HAVING A HARD TIME PATROLLING--HUH?!

HEY! DON'T YOU KIDS KNOW IT'S *DANGEROUS* HERE AT NIGHT?

AW, LIGHTEN UP, MAN!

C'MON, BILLY-- LET'S DITCH THIS GUY AND FIND US THE *MONSTER!*

YOU GOT IT!

WAIT A MINUTE--COME BACK HERE!

BUT AS THE KIDS LOSE JACK...

UH...WHERE ARE THOSE *LIGHTS* COMING FROM?

I--I DON'T KNOW! ER, I GOTTA GET HOME BEFORE MY FOLKS FIND OUT I SNUCK OUT. BILLY--?

YOU *WIMPS!* I'M GONNA CHECK OUT THOSE LIGHTS! I'LL BET IT'S *UFOS* OR SOMETHING REALLY...

...SPOOKY...

HEH...AND THESE TWO ACTUALLY *THANKED* US FOR "RESCUING" THEM.

IS TOYING WITH THEM SMART, *SCUZZ*? THERE'RE LOTS OF COPS AROUND AFTER OUR KILL LAST NIGHT.

REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED TO *LAYLA'S* GANG...

LAYLA'S GANG GOT SLOPPY AND LET THAT *JACK RUSSELL* INTERFERE.* SHE FORGOT THE BASIC RULE OF THE *BRAINEATERS*--

AS TOLD IN MCP #S 54-59.--TERRY

--NO HUMAN WHO WITNESSES THE CHANGE...

...IS ALLOWED TO LIVE.

CRUNCH

AND AT THAT MOMENT, ELSEWHERE IN BROOKLYN...

FWOOSH

HEY, MAN, IT'S THAT GHOST RIDER DUDE!

LET'S NAIL HIM, TAKE HIS BIKE!

YOU KIDDIN'? HE AIN'T EVEN HUMAN!

THE FLAME SKULL'S JUST A MASK! C'MON, WE'LL JUMP HIM ON THREE...

ONE...

...TWO...

I WILL NOT BE DELAYED!

UNGH!

JUST A MASK...

THE PARK...

PLEASE, DON'T HURT MEEEEEEE!!

SNIFF SNIFF

EH?

YESSS, SCUZZ, NOW THAT THE WIND'S SHIFTED, I SMELL HIM TOO! MALE, ABOUT TEN YEARS OLD, IN THE BUSHES...

...HE'S SEEN IT ALL--SEEN US IN HUMAN FORM!

BUT WE HAVE TO LET HIM GO--FOR NOW. IT'S TOO RISKY TO LINGER HERE. WE'VE GOT HIS SCENT. WE'LL GET HIM SOON ENOUGH.

ARROOOOO...

THAT HOWLING-- THEY'RE HERE!

JACK RUSSELL CAN'T STOP THEM...

...BUT THE WEREWOLF CAN!

NO! TOO LATE-- WHAT?!

YROOM

THERE WILL BE NO MORE DEATHS BY YOUR HAND, KILLER! TURN AND FACE THE SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE!

CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE...

MARVEL®

TM

© 1992 MARVEL ENT GROUP INC

$1.50 US
$1.80 CAN / UK 80p

108

CC 02214

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

MARVEL® COMICS PRESENTS™

GHOST RIDER®

AND

THE WEREWOLF™

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

THANOS™

RETURN OF THE BRAINEATERS PART 2--

CLAW AND BONE

BILLY BALDWIN JUST WATCHED A PACK OF WERE-WOLVES RIP A COUPLE TO PIECES.

THIS WEREWOLF WASN'T ONE OF THE KILLERS.

BUT GHOST RIDER DOESN'T KNOW THAT!

WHATEVER SORT OF CREATURE YOU ARE, YOUR REIGN OF TERROR ENDS HERE!

PLEASE, LORD--

FEATURING GHOST RIDER AND WEREWOLF

NO MORE MUTILATIONS!

--DON'T LET THESE TWO MONSTERS FIND ME!

BOK

WHAM

BRAK

NO MORE ATROCITIES!

ENOUGH!

IT SPEAKS--?!

OH YES, "IT" SPEAKS...

SHRAK

AAARRR!

...NOT THAT YOU LISTEN.

YOU'RE SO OBSESSED WITH VENGEANCE, SO QUICK TO DISH OUT PAIN...

...YOU NEVER STOPPED TO LEARN THAT YOUR TARGET--

--IS INNOCENT!

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN TO FEEL PAIN!

WHO--?

I DIDN'T DO IT I DIDN'T DO IT YOU DIDN'T DO IT HE DIDN'T DO IT EITHER IT WAS *THEM!*

YOU SAW THE MURDERS TAKE PLACE?

I--I--

EASY, KID. NO ONE'S GOING TO HURT YOU.

JUST TELL US WHAT YOU SAW.

THE BOY IS TOO FRIGHTENED TO TALK. YOUR *BESTIAL* APPEARANCE TERRIFIES HIM.

MY APPEARANCE? EVER LOOKED IN A MIRROR, FRIEND?

MAN OH MAN OH MAN OH MAN...

...I'M GOING *HOME!*

NOW YOU'VE DONE IT!

WAIT, CHILD!

REEOOREEOO

THE POLICE! THEY MUST NOT FIND ME HERE!

I DON'T KNOW WHO OR WHAT YOU ARE, BUT THE CHILD'S *RAMBLINGS* HAVE INADVERTENTLY CLEARED YOU--FOR THE MOMENT.

BUT DO NOT *INTERFERE* IN THIS BUSINESS AGAIN!

WAIT! COME BACK HERE!

GREAT GOING, *JACK RUSSELL*-- YOU FOLLOW THE TRAIL OF THOSE SADISTIC *BRAINEATERS*. ALL THE WAY HERE TO BROOKLYN, THEN FAIL TO STOP THOSE CRAZY BIKER WEREWOLVES FROM KILLING TWO MORE HELPLESS VICTIMS...

...AND NOW YOU FIND A *KID* AND A FLAMING-SKULLED *LUNATIC*, BOTH OF WHOM MIGHT KNOW SOMETHING, AND YOU LET THEM BOTH RUN OFF! SO WHICH DO I TRACK...

...THE DEMON BIKER OR THE BOY?

NOT FAR AWAY...

PLEASE DON'T HURT ME... I'LL DO ANYTHING...

OH, NOW, HONEY, SOME'A *THAT* WOULD BE NICE, TOO... BUT RIGHT NOW ALL WE NEED IS A LITTLE *HELP.*

YOU *WANT* TO HELP US, DON'T YOU?

OH LORD.. OH LORD..

YES, I *KNOW* YOU DO... JUST TELL US WHERE YOUR BROTHER IS.

AFTER ALL, YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO END UP--

"--LIKE YOUR POOR, POOR MOTHER IN THE NEXT ROOM."

SO WHERE'S *BILLY*?

I--I DON'T KNOW!

"FUNNY, THAT'S JUST WHAT YER MOM SAID-- RIGHT BEFORE HER *ACCIDENT.*"

BUT I *BELIEVE* YOU. SO I GUESS WE SHOULD LET YOU GO.

THEN AGAIN, WE *ARE* THE *BRAINEATERS.* AND YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY...

"...A MIND IS A TERRIBLE THING TO WASTE!"

SKRAWL

SMACK

SNORT

GRRRR

YOU REALLY SHOULD ...MMMM...TRY SOME, LUPE. YOU NEVER FIND FRONTAL LOBES THIS MOIST ONCE THEY'RE PAST EIGHTEEN.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN ARE A BORE, SCUZZ. WHERE'S THE CHALLENGE? NOW, REDNECK LOWLIFES...!

MAKE 'EM CRAWL AROUND AND BEG FOR MERCY... MAYBE WHIMPER A LITTLE...

QUIT IT, LUPE-- IT'S... DISTRACTING.

ACTUALLY, I COULD STAND A LITTLE DISTRACTING.

COULD YA, BABE?

WELL...

SMAK

THAT'LL HAVE TA HOLD YA FOR NOW. THAT BOY'S SEEN US IN OUR HUMAN FORMS. UNTIL HE'S DEAD, THERE'S NO TIME FOR PARTYIN'... EVEN WITH YOU, LUPE.

THE SCENT WE TRACKED BACK TO THIS PLACE MUST'VE BEEN OLD. WE BEAT THE KID HOME.

WHICH MEANS HE'LL COME WALKING THROUGH THAT DOOR ANY SECOND.

"AND WE'LL BE HERE WAITING!"

AND IN CYPRESS HILLS CEMETERY, AFTER A REMARKABLE TRANS-FORMATION...

GOODBYE, SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE...

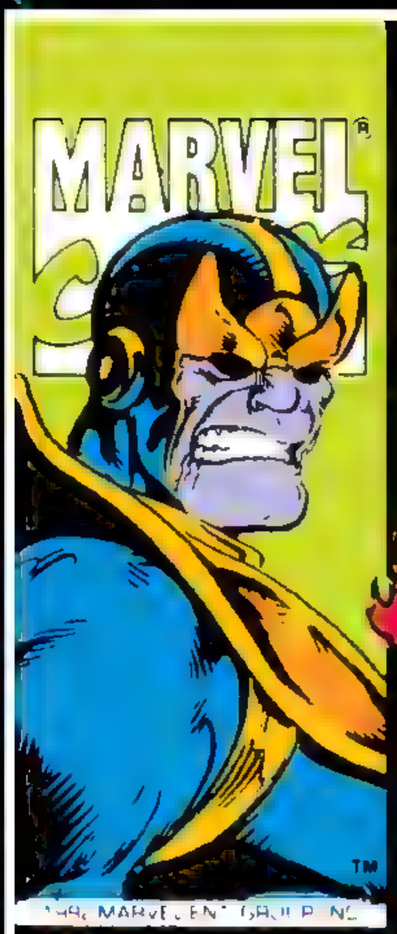
...HELLO, DAN KETCH.

SOMETIMES I WISH IT WAS GOOD-BYE *FOR GOOD*. I MEAN, WHAT HAS GHOST RIDER GOTTEN ME INTO THIS TIME? CHASING *WEREWOLVES*? HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO CATCH--

WELL, WELL, WELL...

...WHAT HAVE WE HERE?

CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE...



$1.50 US
$1.80 CAN/UK 80p
109
CC 02214
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS™

GHOST RIDER AND THE WEREWOLF™

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

THANOS™

RETURN OF THE BRAINEATERS

PART 3: BATTLE ON THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE

DAN KETCH HAS BEEN LOOKING INTO A SERIES OF BRUTAL MURDERS IN BROOKLYN.

HE DIDN'T REALIZE THAT SOMETHING WAS LOOKING FOR HIM.

WHAT ? NO *QUICK CHANGE* INTO THE DEMON BIKER ?

FEATURING

GHOST RIDER

AND

WEREWOLF

BLAST IT, *GHOST RIDER*, WHERE ARE YOU WHEN I NEED YOU?

I CAN SMELL YOUR *FEAR*, BOY...

GOT TO BREAK FREE!

...BUT IT HASN'T *PARALYZED* YOU.

HUH?!?

THAT'S GOOD...

...I CAN'T HAVE MY PARTNER *FREEZING UP* ON ME.

PARTNER?!

THAT'S WHY I TRACKED YOU HERE. WE'VE GOT A LOT IN COMMON--WE'RE BOTH HUNTING THE SAME KILLERS, AND WE BOTH *TRANSFORM* INTO SOMETHING MORE THAN HUMAN --THOUGH YOU CAN'T SEEM TO CONTROL IT, KID.

HEY, I DIDN'T ASK FOR THIS POWER, AND THE NAME'S *CAN*.

JACK RUSSELL.

JEEZ, IT'S LIKE LOOKING IN A *MIRROR*... A KID IN OVER HIS HEAD, STRUGGLING WITH WHAT HE'S BECOME--JUST LIKE ME, BEFORE I *EMBRACED* THE WOLF WITHIN.

SO WHAT'S THE DEAL, JACK? IF YOU'RE NOT BEHIND THESE *MUTILATION MURDERS*, THEN WHO IS?

THE MOST VICIOUS BAND OF *LOWLIFES* EVER TO PROWL THE *OPEN ROAD*...

...THE *BRAINEATERS!* A BIKER GANG OF WERE-WOLVES WHO CAN CHANGE AT WILL, LIKE ME...

...BUT THEY *ABUSE* THE GIFT, USING IT FOR VIOLENT *ATROCITIES*, JUST FOR THE RUSH!

"I FIRST RAN INTO THEM OUT IN *CALIFORNIA*...

"...WHERE THEY TURNED A DRIVE-IN *DOUBLE FEATURE* INTO A *SLAUGHTERFEST.*

"THEN *THEY* WERE CUT DOWN BY SILVER-BULLET-TOTING FANATICS*...OR SO I THOUGHT.

*SEE *MCP* #s 54-59 FOR THE WHOLE BLOODY TALE!--TERRY

"LATER I LEARNED THAT *THOSE* BRAIN-EATERS WERE ONLY *PART* OF THE GROUP.

"A *SECOND* GANG WAS KILLING ITS WAY *CROSS-CONTINENT.* I'VE BEEN TRACKING THEM FOR MONTHS.

"I'VE GOT TO SHOW THEM A *BETTER WAY* FOR OUR KIND--OR TAKE THEM DOWN FOR GOOD. TOO MANY OF THEM FOR ME TO CONFRONT ALONE, BUT THE TWO OF US *TOGETHER...*"

WE MAY GET OUR CHANCE--THAT *GLOWING GAS CAP* MEANS GHOST RIDER'S NEEDED...INNOCENT BLOOD HAS BEEN SPILLED!

THE *LITTLE BOY'S* IN DANGER--THAT'S *GOT* TO BE IT!

"THE BOY'S THE ONLY ONE TO SEE THE BRAINS IN *HUMAN* FORM AND LIVE!

"HE CAN *I.D.* THEM! HE'S THE *KEY*!"

GOT TO KEER RUNNING.. CAN'T GO HOME... THEY WERE WAITING FOR ME THERE... KILLED MOM AND DAD... LUCY...

MANHATTAN ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BRIDGE...BUSY STREETS.. I'LL BE *SAFE*...IF I CAN JUST MAKE IT ACROSS...

YOU'RE DOG MEAT, BILLY!

CLYDE

BOOM

STOP!

THE CHILD IS UNDER MY PROTECTION!

GRRRAAAAAAAARR!

WHAT THE HECK IS THAT THING?

DOESN'T MATTER-- THERE'S ONLY ONE OF HIM...

WHO--?

RUSSELL!

NOW TO GRAB HIS WHEELS AND SEE IF GHOST RIDER NEEDS A HAND.

KROM

OH, MAN--I GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE!

RUN, CHILD!

HIS CHAIN--

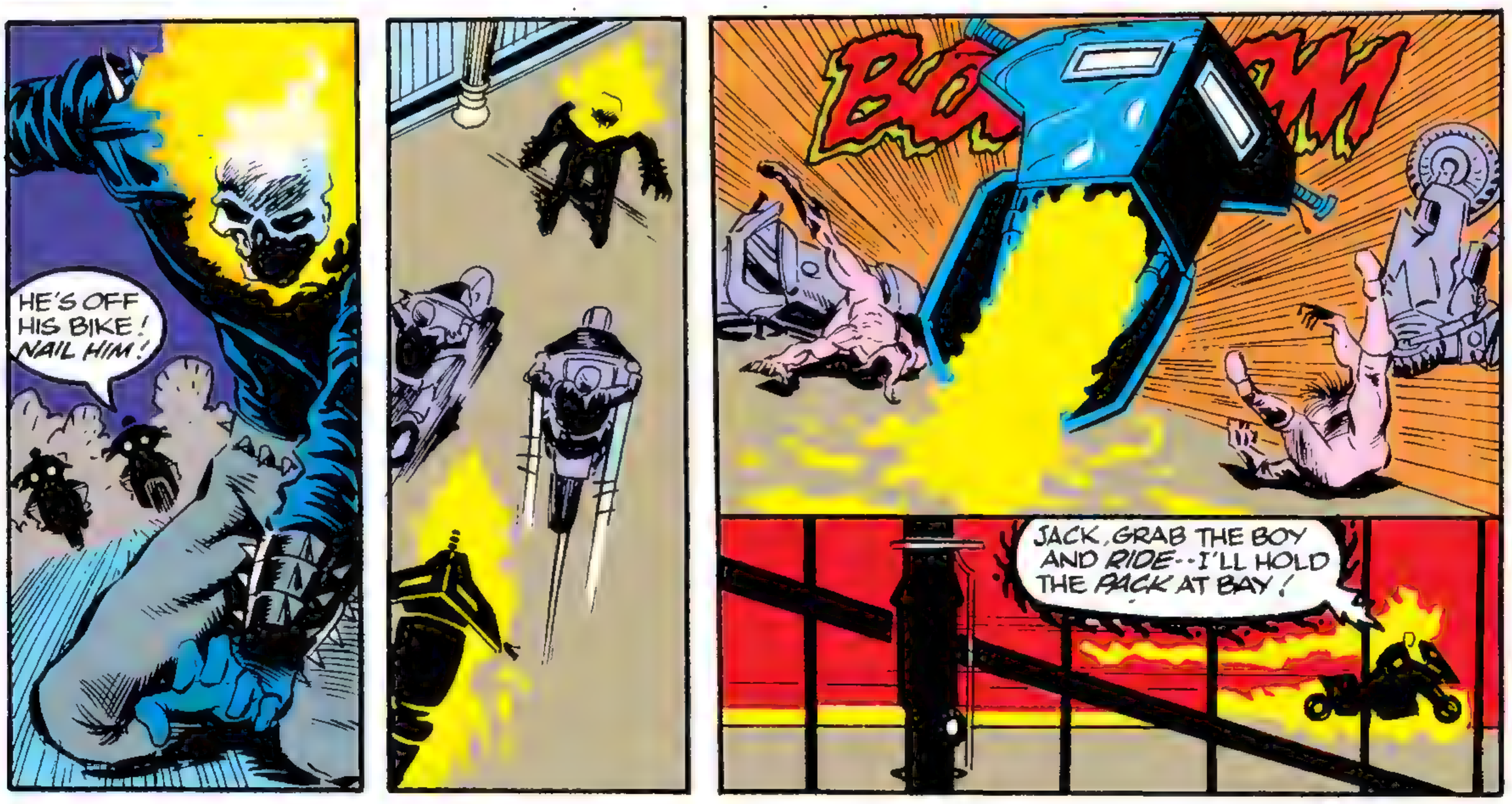
CAN'T HURT US! IT'S NOT SILVER!

WE'RE BARELY SLOWING HIM DOWN!

THAT'S ANOTHER ONE OUT OF THE PICTURE, BUT *THREE MORE* ARE HEADING OUR WAY, GHOST RIDER!

KRASH

SKREEK
MY CHAIN, RUSSELL-- TAKE ONE END !
GAK !


HE'S OFF HIS BIKE ! NAIL HIM !
BC
JACK, GRAB THE BOY AND RIDE--I'LL HOLD THE PACK AT BAY !

RUSSELL!

WAIT, KID!

I'M TRYING TO HELP!

NO GOOD-- TO HIM I'M JUST ANOTHER WEREWOLF!

HANG ON, I'M--WHAT?!

SKREEEE

POLE STOPPED THE WHEEL COLD --I'M GOING OVER...

NOOOO

JACK!

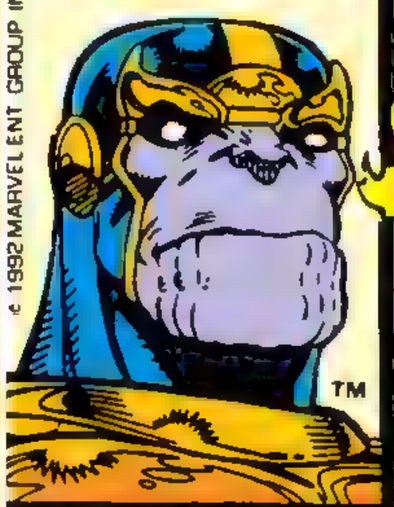
JACK'S FINISHED, DEMON--

--AND SO'S THE BOY, UNLESS YOU SURRENDER, NOW!

CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE...

MARVEL COMICS

© 1992 MARVEL ENT GROUP INC



$1.50 US
$1.80 CAN/UK 80p

110

CC 02214

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS

∞ AN INFINITY WAR CROSSOVER

GHOST RIDER®

AND

THE WEREWOLF

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

THANOS

RETURN OF THE BRAINEATERS

PART FOUR--UNDERCOVER AT THE BLACK MOON BAR & GRILL

A DESERTED LOT IN BROOKLYN...

GHOST RIDER'S BEEN FIGHTING A BIKER GANG OF KILLER **WEREWOLVES** ALL NIGHT LONG, AND HE'S STILL IN ONE PIECE.

THAT MAY NOT LAST LONG.

FEATURING

GHOST RIDER

AND

WEREWOLF

THIS STORY OCCURS BEFORE EVENTS IN GHOST RIDER #25.
--T.K.

A GOOD NIGHT FOR US **BRAINEATERS**, EH, **SCUZZ**? WE CATCH THE KID WHO CAN FINGER US, **OFF** THAT TRAITOR **RUSSELL**, AND END UP WITH THE GHOST RIDER AT OUR MERCY!

VRUMM

VRUMM

GHOST RIDER'S A FOOL, *LUPE*--SO NOBLE THAT HE *SURRENDERS* RATHER THAN SEE THE BOY HURT!

THEN LET THE *BOY* SEE *GHOST RIDER* SUFFER--AS HE'S TORN LIMB FROM LIMB!

NOW, YOU MUTTS-LET'ER RIP!

SHINK

MORE ENGINE!

VRRROOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOMMMM

MORE ENGINE!

SPINK

KRAK

THE CHAINS GAVE OUT! HE'S *FREE!*

THAT'S IT! THE PUP'S DOG MEAT!

NO!

WATCH YER MOUTH, BABE, OR YOU'LL BE FIRST!

BUT THE BOY'S OUR ONLY GUARANTEE, IN CASE GHOST RIDER COMES AFTER US AGAIN--THE KID'S OUR INSURANCE!

ALL RIGHT. THE KID LIVES--FOR NOW. HE COMES WITH US.

AS FOR THE BONY GEEK--HE CAN BARELY STAND RIGHT NOW, LET ALONE RIDE. HE WON'T BE TRACKING US.

HE'S RIGHT, YOU KNOW--

JACK RUSSELL!

--EVEN MY *LUPINE SENSES* WON'T HELP US TRACK THEM. BRAINS ARE THAT GOOD.

WHEN I SAW YOU FALL OFF THE BRIDGE, I THOUGHT...

IT WAS A NEAR THING. BUT MY WOLF FORM'S *STURDIER* THAN THEY REALIZED...THOUGH IT TOOK ME UNTIL NOW TO RECOVER AND GET HERE.

THEN WE MUST HURRY! THE BOY IS IN DANGER!

WAIT. WITH BILLY AS A HOSTAGE, EVEN IF WE CATCH THEM, IT'S THE SAME OLD STAND-OFF. I HAVE A BETTER IDEA...

BUT I DON'T NEED *YOU*, GHOST RIDER --I NEED...

"...DAN KETCH!

"Y'SEE, GHOST RIDER, OUR ONLY CHANCE TO BEAT THE BRAINEATERS IS TO CATCH THEM UNAWARES IN *HUMAN* FORM. BUT NO ONE BUT *BILLY* KNOWS WHO THEY ARE.

"THAT'S WHERE *DAN* COMES IN. YOUR *ALTER-EGO* IS A TOTAL STRANGER TO THE BRAINEATERS...

"...PLUS HE'S A BIKER AND A LOCAL BOY. HE KNOWS THIS PART OF TOWN AND HOW TO CHECK AROUND.

"I FIGURE HE CAN SNIFF OUT ALL THE *LOW-LIFE BARS*...

"...PLACES WHERE THE WORST TYPES KEEP THEIR EARS TO THE GROUND.

"I CAN'T DO IT. THE BRAINS WOULD *RECOGNIZE* ME INSTANTLY, AS MAN OR WOLF.

"BUT DAN JUST MIGHT STUMBLE ONTO A GOOD LEAD!"

WELL, *FRASER*?

YEAH, KID, I KNOW WHERE THEY HANG.

BUT IF *YOU'RE* LOOKIN FOR *THEM*, YOU MUST BE LOOKIN' TO BE A LITTLE LESS *LIVING*.

"YOU CAN USUALLY FIND 'EM WARMIN' UP AT THE *BLACK MOON BAR AND GRILL.*

"AND BE READY FOR A *ROUGH RIDE!*"

WHOA.

BUD SPECIAL! 2 for 1

RICHIE G + JR.

I'VE SEEN SOME WILD WATERING HOLES, BUT THIS...

YOU'RE NOTHIN' BUT TRASH, LUPE.

WHAT'S THAT MAKE YOU-- A *TRASH COLLECTOR?*

NAH, JUST A--

SNIFF SNIFF

WHAT IS IT, SCUZZ?

I'M NOT SURE--SOMETHING *FAMILIAR* ABOUT THAT GUY'S SCENT...

YOU HAVE SUCH A WAY WITH MEN. GO CHECK HIM OUT.

MY PLEASURE. BUT WHO'LL WATCH THE LITTLE BOY?

YOU'VE DONE NOTHIN' BUT BABYSIT FOR THE LAST THREE DAYS. FORGET HIM...

...RAZOR-BLADE'S GOT HIM COVERED.

WAIT A SECOND... THERE IN THE CORNER...

IS THAT A CHILD? HERE?

BILLY!

OKAY, OKAY... WE HIT PAYDIRT. GOTTA STAY CALM. GET OUT QUIETLY. COME BACK WITH JACK--

HEY, THERE-- GOT A LIGHT?

EXIT

YOU'D BE SURPRISED. BUT YOU HAVEN'T GOT A CIGARETTE.

DETAILS. I'M *LUPE*.

SO, DAN, WHAT'S A SQUEAKY-CLEAN TYPE LIKE YOU DOING--

DAN.

IN A *PIT* LIKE THIS? I WAS ABOUT TO ASK YOU THE SAME QUESTION.

ME?! YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT? I'M BAD AS A NEW PAIR A' HEELS AND SOME HANKERIN' HORMONES. TAKE A LOOK, HANDSOME. BETTER YET...

...TAKE A TASTE.

YOU'RE SOMETHING, YOU KNOW THAT?

BELIEVE IT.

NO, I MEAN YOU'RE *DIF-FERENT* FROM THE OTHERS HERE. THEY *HURT* PEO-PLE. YOU'RE JUST LOOKING FOR A GOOD TIME.

HEY, YOU DON'T KNOW ME, OR WHAT I'VE DONE...

NO, I DON'T. BUT I GET THE FEELING MAYBE YOU'RE LOOK-ING TO DO BETTER...

...IF SOMEBODY'D JUST SHOW YOU HOW.

IT'S STARTIN' TO LOOK A LITTLE *TOO* FRIENDLY OVER THERE. BOYS...?

HEY!

YOU LIKE YOUR WORK TOO MUCH, LUPE. LET'S SEE IF YOU LIKE IT AFTER IT'S *BLED* TO DEATH.

C'MON, CODY! WE'LL TAKE HIM OUT BACK, AND THEN--

TOO MANY OF THEM TO FIGHT... GOTTA WAIT FOR AN OPENING...

IT'S SHOWTIME!

BRAK

THAM

BDOW

KRAK

THUNK

I DON'T NEED TO *CHANGE* TO FINISH *THAT* LOSER!

HEH! IF THE *LEAD PIPE* TO THE HEAD DIDN'T DO THE TRICK, THEN LIKE THE BOSS SAYS--

--LET HIM BLEED TO DEATH!

CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE...

MARVEL COMICS

$1.50 US
$1.80 CAN / UK 80p

111

02214

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS

8 AN INFINITY WAR CROSSOVER

GHOST RIDER AND THE WEREWOLF

ALSO

THANOS

RETURN OF THE BRAINEATERS, PART 5--

ROADKILL!!

IT'S DONE! THE GHOST RIDER IS NO MORE!

TAKE HIM APART, MY BRAINEATERS! FEAST ON HIS BONES, SAMPLE THEIR SUCCULENT MARROW...

... AND LET THE FALTERING FLAMES OF HIS SKULL LIGHT THE PATH TO OUR VICTIMS! LET HIS DYING EYES FIX ON THE FIERY FACE OF DEATH...

FEATURING

GHOST RIDER AND WEREWOLF

THIS STORY TAKES PLACE BEFORE THE EVENTS IN GHOST RIDER #25. -- TK

" ...AND THE HUNGRY FANGS OF THE *WOLF!*"

NO!

EASY, *DAN*. THAT MUST'VE BEEN SOME DREAM!

JACK?

WHO ELSE? SORRY TO STARTLE YOU, BUT I CAN BETTER CHECK HOW YOU'RE HEALING WITH WOLF SENSES.

HOW'D I GET HERE? LAST I REMEMBER WAS BEING BEATEN OUTSIDE SOME BAR--

A *DAY*--?! BUT I FOUND THE BRAINEATERS, AND THE BOY! WE'VE GOT TO--

--PRETTY BADLY, TOO. WHEN YOU DIDN'T COME BACK, I TRACKED YOU DOWN, BROUGHT YOU DOWN HERE WHERE THE *BRAINS* CAN'T GET YOUR SCENT FOR THE *STENCH*, AND STARTED TREATING YOUR WOUNDS. THAT WAS A FULL DAY AGO.

YOU'VE GOT TO MEND MORE BEFORE YOU TRY ANY MORE HEROICS. AND BESIDES--

--WE STILL NEED TO PREPARE THE *FINAL STAGE* OF OUR PLAN...

THE BLACK MOON BAR&GRILL, ELSEWHERE IN BROOKLYN...

THIS KID'S GETTIN'ON MY NERVES.

AW, LEAVE HIM BE, SCUZZ. HE AIN'T DOIN' NUTHIN.

JUST MY POINT, LUPE. HE'S SUPROSED TO BE OUR HOSTAGE IN CASE THAT GHOST RIDER COMES BACK. WELL, IT'S BEEN DAYS, AND HE AIN'T COME BACK, WHICH MAKES THE KID DEAD WEIGHT--AND I DO MEAN DEAD.

SCUZZ...

SHUT UP, LUPE. WE'LL GIVE IT TILL THE END OF THE NIGHT. IF THE GHOST RIDER AIN'T SHOWN UP BY THEN...

...THEN LITTLE BILLY ENDS UP LIKE THAT GUY WE BEAT TO DEATH LAST NIGHT.

"YOU'RE DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHERS, LUPE...

"I GET THE FEELING YOU'RE LOOKING TO DO BETTER...

"IF SOMEBODY'D JUST SHOW YOU HOW."

THAT GUY LAST NIGHT.

A BRIEF ENCOUNTER. THE SIMPLEST OF WORDS.

RAZORBLADE, DARLIN', IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE WE--

HUH?

Y'KNOW, SINCE WE... GOT TOGETHER.

YOU AND ME. TOGETHER.

LUPE, THAT'S MUSIC TO MY EARS!

THEN MAYBE YOU OUGHTA LISTEN TO THIS...

KPOW

...AIN'T NOBODY MESSES WITH LUPE BUT ME!

HEY! THAT'S MY DRINK

GET OFFA ME, YOU--

KILL 'IM! KILL 'IM!

LOUSY, FLEA-BITTEN

HURRY, KID--

"--BEFORE ANYBODY NOTICES WE'RE GONE!"

WAIT! STOP FIGHTING!

WHERE'S LUPE? WHERE'S THE KID?!

TO THE BIKES! FIND THEM!

FASTER! BEFORE--

YYYYRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR

RUN.

BUT--

AND WHATEVER YOU DO...

...DON'T LOOK BACK.

RRRRRRRRRRRRRR

RRRRUUUUMM

NO! TAKE ME!

VROOM

OH NO, LUPE! I GAVE STRICT ORDERS THAT YOU WERE NOT TO BE TOUCHED. I WANT YOU ALL TO MYSELF.

GRAAR

GAK!

DAN, I REALLY DON'T THINK YOU'VE HEALED ENOUGH FOR--

LOOK! IN THE ALLEY!

LUPE!

DAN? ...THOUGHT YOU WERE... ANYWAY, GUESS I DON'T LOOK... SO HOT NOW, HUH?

SHHHH... YOU LOOK FINE.

RIGHT... THIS AIN'T WORKIN' OUT... GOTTA... GOTTA...

HEY, DID I DO BETTER..

MORE THAN BETTER. YOU DID GOOD, LUPE.

REAL GOOD.

VENGEANCE!

BLAST IT, GHOST RIDER, *WAIT!* WHAT ABOUT THE *PLAN*--?

WHA--?

YOU WILL PAY FOR YOUR CRIMES, SCUZZ...

WHAM

...IN *PAIN*--

BRK

UNGHG!

--AND IN *BLOOD!*

GO AHEAD THEN AND *FINISH* ME! BUT IN THE TIME IT TAKES YOU TO DO IT...

...MY BRAINEATERS WILL HAVE *STRIPPED THE FLESH* FROM THE BOY'S BONES!

WHICH WILL IT BE--KILL ME, OR SAVE THE BOY?

CONCLUDES NEXT ISSUE...

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS

GHOST RIDER

AND

THE WEREWOLF

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

PIP the TROLL

&

Demogoblin

MARVEL KOMICS

© 1992 MARVEL ENT GROUP INC

$1.50 US
$1.80 CAN / UK 80p

112

CC 02214

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

BROOKLYN -- THE DEAD OF NIGHT...

A WOMAN DAN KETCH CARED FOR JUST DIED IN HIS ARMS.

THE WEREWOLVES RESPONSIBLE ARE ABOUT TO LEARN THE TRUE MEANING OF VENGEANCE.

SHOWDOWN!

FEATURING

RETURN OF THE BRAINEATERS PART SIX

GHOST RIDER

AND

WEREWOLF

THIS STORY TAKES PLACE BEFORE THE EVENTS IN GHOST RIDER #28. -- TK

HURRY, JACK RUSSELL!

WE WERE TOO LATE TO SAVE LUPE--

BUT WE'VE GOT TO SAVE THAT KID, BILLY! I KNOW!

THAT'S WHY WE COULDN'T WASTE TIME BACK THERE WITH THE PACK LEADER.

BUT WE CAN'T SAVE BILLY IF WE DON'T COMPLETE OUR PLAN!

SO HAND ME YOUR CHAIN!

NO PLACE TO RUN, KID!

NO

HURRY, JACK!

KRUM

HAVE TO MERGE YOUR CHAIN...

...WITH THESE SILVER BULLETS!

SKRASH

...TO FINISH OFF THIS RUNT!

WE DON'T NEED OUR WOLF FORMS...

NO! NO MORE VICTIMS OF THE BRAIN-EATERS!

NOT EVER!

TCHINK

AAAAAAAAAAAAAARRGH

IDIOTS! WE'RE STILL ALIVE!

YES--SO LONG AS YOU NEVER CHANGE INTO WEREWOLVES AGAIN!

IF YOU DO, THE SILVER BULLETS LODGED IN YOUR BODIES WILL KILL YOU--BULLETS THAT, THANKS TO THE MAGIC OF THE CHAIN, WON'T COME OUT! THE CHOICE IS YOURS!

LIES! I'LL CHANGE RIGHT NAIIIIEEEE

FORGETTING SOMEONE?

SCUZZ!

FOOLS! I GOT HERE TOO LATE TO SAVE MY BRAIN-EATERS--SO I'LL JUST HAVE TO MAKE NEW ONES!

I'LL CLAW EVERY LOWLIFE IN THIS CITY, UNTIL THERE'S AN ARMY OF BRAINEATERS!

HE CAN DO IT, TOO! THAT'S HOW THE WERE-WOLF CURSE SPREADS--! I SHOULD KNOW!

YOU'VE GOT TO STOP HIM, GHOST RIDER! I'LL HANDLE WHAT'S LEFT OF HIS GANG!

SURRENDER, SCUZZ!

NEVER!

KROW

SMASH

DIE, DEMON, DIE!

BRAK

NO!

BRAKOOM

NO MORE DEATH TODAY, SCUZZ!

NOT EVEN YOURS!

BROK

OR MAYBE, DEMON--

--WE'LL BOTH DIE TODAY!

KCHUNK

WHAT, THEN? YOU PUT SILVER IN MY BODY--

--SO THAT I CAN NEVER *TASTE* THE *AIR* OR *HUNT UNDER THE MOON* EVER AGAIN?

NO! NO MORE DEATH!

NEVER! BETTER--

--LIKE THIS!

KA-CHUK

CYPRESS HILLS CEMETERY, SOMETIME LATER...

BILLY SEEMS TO BE PHYSICALLY FINE. TIME WILL TELL WITH THE *MENTAL* WOUNDS.

AT LEAST HE HAS RELATIVES TO GO LIVE WITH, NOW THAT HIS PARENTS ARE GONE.

AS FOR THE *BRAINEATERS*, THERE WAS NO WAY TO LINK THEM TO THE MURDERS. BUT AT LEAST, WITHOUT THEIR *WEREWOLF* POWERS, THEY'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO HURT ANYONE ELSE.

WHAT ABOUT *MY* FUTURE, JACK?

IF IT'S NOT WEREWOLVES THAT CHANGE ME INTO GHOST RIDER...

...IT'S SOMETHING ELSE.

WE'RE MORE ALIKE THAN YOU KNOW, DAN. THERE WAS A TIME WHEN *I* COULDN'T CONTROL MY TRANSFORMATIONS...

...WHEN I VIEWED THE WEREWOLF WITHIN ME AS A *CURSE*.

BUT ONCE I *EMBRACED* MY OTHER SELF, INSTEAD OF FIGHTING IT--

--I GAINED CONTROL...

...AND A MEASURE OF PEACE.

THINK ABOUT IT, DAN. AND IF YOU EVER NEED TO HEAR A FRIEND'S VOICE ON A MOONLIT NIGHT...

...LISTEN TO THE HOWLING, AND KNOW I'M THERE WITH YOU.

THE END.

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #113-118

WRITER: **JOEY CAVALIERI** • PENCILER: **SHAWN McMANUS**
INKERS: **SHAWN McMANUS** WITH **JIMMY PALMIOTTI** & **KEN BRANCH** (#117) • COLORIST: **FREDDY MENDEZ**
LETTERERS: **JANICE CHIANG** (#113) & **STEVE DUTRO** (#114-118) WITH **DAVE SHARPE** (#114)
ASSISTANT EDITOR: **MARK POWERS** • EDITOR: **TERRY KAVANAGH**

LEGION OF VENGEANCE
PART ONE
FEATURING
GHOST RIDER
AND
IRON FIST

SHADOWS THAT SKITTER AND SKULK INTO THE ENVELOPING DARKNESS TO ESCAPE OUR NOTICE BEFRIEND HIM.

THOSE SECRETS THAT HIDE ON THE PERIPHERY OF OUR EXISTENCE ARE ALL TOO CLEAR TO HIM.

SOMETIMES, DANNY KETCH WISHES HE WERE NOT SO OBSERVANT.

FEEL LIKE THE TRAIN'S A BIG BROTHER GUIDIN' ME HOME. LIKE IT *WANTS* ME TO GO HOME.

I STAY OUT LATER AND LATER JUST RIDING AROUND... TRYING TO MAKE SOME SENSE OF MY LIFE... MY *FUTURE*.

...BUT THE *PIECES* NEVER SEEM TO...

...TO FALL TOGETHER.

PLINK

YO, WHAT WAS *THAT*?

SOME WISE GUY UP THERE, DROPPIN' STUFF DOWN FROM THE EL? DROPPING MONEY DOWN?

WELL, IF YOU WANTED MY *ATTENTION*, YOU GOT IT!

HE COULD CHOOSE TO *IGNORE* THE PIECES, BUT NO MATTER HOW HE TRIED, THEY WOULD RISE TO MEET SO MANY OTHERS, FOR...

THE NIGHT HAS A THOUSAND EYES!

THIS STORY OCCURS BEFORE GHOST RIDER #25. --T.K.

GOOD LORD... WHAT... WHO... IS *THAT*?!

PLEASE... *PLEASE*... PUT ME DOWN!

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?

WHAT DID I DO? *WHAT DID I DO*?!

THE MIND'S EYE SEES EVERYTHING... EVEN WHEN YOU *WON'T*!

I SEE *ALL*. I HAVE OBSERVED-- WITNESSED--AS YOU TOSSED YOUR EMPTY CAN ON THE TRAIN TRACKS!

YOU--YOU'RE AFTER ME... FOR L-LITTERING?!

THE MIND'S EYE SEES NOT ONLY YOUR ACTIONS--

--BUT INTO YOUR *HEART*!

YOU BLAME THE RUIN OF YOUR CITY ON MINORITY GROUPS MOVING IN. YOU COMPLAIN IN YOUR BEER ABOUT THE BLACKS, THE KOREANS, THE INDIANS WRECKING YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

YOU COMPLAIN HOW THE STREETS LOOK AND SMELL AND BLAME EVERYONE ELSE.

WHEN THE FARE GOES UP, YOU SCREAM LIKE YOUR THROAT'S BEEN CUT: "HOW CAN THEY EXPECT THE WORKING MAN TO GET TO HIS JOB?"

I KNOW YOU.

I KNOW *EVERYONE* LIKE YOU.

YOU ARE ALL... *GUILTY.*

CLACKETACKATTAC

PLEASE... I GOTTA GET OFF THE TRACKS!

A TRAIN... ANOTHER TRAIN'S COMING!

THEN THE TRAIN WILL PASS FINAL JUDGMENT--

--WHILE I *WATCH*... *WITNESS*.., AND *RECORD!*

I PARKED *MY* CYCLE DOWNSTAIRS... BUT THE GHOST RIDER'S CYCLE HAS SUDDENLY APPEARED *ON THE EL!*

THAT CAN ONLY MEAN...

...IT IS TIME!

CLACKACHUNKKA-CHUNK

RRROOOAARRR

KA-CLUNK KA-CLUNK KA-CLUNK

YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR... NOW.

YAAAA!

WHO WAS HE? WHAT DID HE WANT?

WHY DID HE PICK YOU?

H-HOW SHOULD I KNOW?

I DON'T EVEN KNOW... WHO YOU ARE...OR WHY YOU SAVED ME.

I AM A SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE--ONE SENT TO PROTECT THE INNOCENT.

ONE FREAK SAYS I'M INNOCENT THE OTHER SAYS I'M GUILTY.

WHAT HAVE I DONE...THAT I DESERVE TO BE JUDGED?

I SEEK THE SAME ANSWER... FROM THE ENTITY WHO CALLS ITSELF... THE MIND'S EYE!

YOW! DID YOU SEE WHAT I THINK I SAW?

THAT SHADOW--IT JUST MOVED!

IT LOOKS LIKE A DRIPPING INKBLOT! WHAT IS THAT THING?

HE'S ELUDING ME...FADING INTO THE NIGHT!

HAHAHA

TAUNTING ME FROM THE DARK! HE COULD BE ANYWHERE!

HAHAHA

ELSEWHERE..

THE *FAITHFUL*... SEEMS TO BE GROWING FEWER AND FEWER.

IT SEEMS ODD THAT THIS LOCAL PARISH IS *LOSING* ITS FLOCK... AS MY *OWN* INTEREST IN SPIRITUALITY IS *GAINING*.

I *MISS* THE RELIGION OF LOST K'UN L'UN. ITS RESPECT FOR *LIFE*-- AND THE *AFTERLIFE*-- RINGS TRUER NOW SINCE MY *NEAR-DEATH* EXPERIENCE.

WHAT WILL RISE TO FILL THE GREAT *VOID* IN MY WORLD?

EXCUSE ME...

THE PEOPLE WHO COME HERE SEEM SO *CERTAIN* IN THEIR FAITH.

THERE WILL NEVER BE ANYTHING LIKE THAT FOR ME AGAIN.

AUGHHHHHHH

I CAN'T *TAKE* IT ANY MORE!

THE LIGHT BURNS BRIGHT WITHIN ME! I CAN'T KEEP IT INSIDE ANYMORE!

THE LIGHT SEEKS OUT HYPOCRITES... *SINNERS* POSING AS *SAINTS*!

THE LIGHT CLEANSES THE WORLD OF THE PRESENCE OF THE *TWO-FACED*!

THE LIGHT CANNOT STAND THE PRESENCE OF--

--ALL OF YOU!

YOU ARE ALL GUILTY OF HYPOCRISY!

THIS CHURCH PAYS NO TAXES AND ASKS FOR MORE AND MORE MONEY--

--PLACING THE TAX BURDEN ON THE *NEIGHBORHOOD*... WHO MUST PAY AND PAY!

THESE ARE THE VERY SAME PEOPLE YOU ASK FOR DONATIONS! THE MONEYCHANGERS WERE DRIVEN *ONCE* FROM THE TEMPLE... AND I SHALL DO IT AGAIN!

FOR I AM *VESPER*... GODDESS OF THE CANDLELIGHT!

MY LIGHT IS THE LIGHT OF *TRUTH*!

THOSE THAT CLOAK THEMSELVES IN LIES AND DECEIT CANNOT STAND AGAINST IT!

WE'LL... WE'LL *ROAST* IN HERE!

GET US OUT!

AN ORDERLY RITE OF FAITH--TURNED TO COMPLETE *CHAOS* BY THAT... *FANATIC.*

NO ONE CAN RAISE A *HAND* AGAINST HER...

...BUT I CAN RAISE A *FIST*--

--AN *IRON FIST!*

WHAT TREACHERY DOES THAT *MASK* HIDE?

MY FLAME WILL SHINE THE LIGHT OF *TRUTH* ON THE MAN BEHIND IT!

WRUNNNCH

IT SEEMS TO PUNISH THE *INNOCENT* AS WELL!

VOOOM

NO SECRET CAN WITHSTAND ITS *WHITE-HOT SCRUTINY!*

THE GUILTY WILL SUFFER THE HEAT OF *PURIFICATION!*

EEEEEE

MAMA!

THE WHOLE CHURCH IS COMING DOWN AROUND US! WE GOTTA GET *OUT!*

WAIT! THERE ARE STILL SOME PEOPLE TRAPPED BEHIND US!

THEY'RE BEYOND HELP!

WE'RE IN WORSE TROUBLE! A BLAZING FIRE BEHIND US...AND LOOK WHAT'S AHEAD OF US!

ANOTHER FLAMING MANIAC! WHO DARES--?

THE DEFENDER OF THE INNOCENT!

THE AVATAR OF VENGEANCE!

MORE TALK ABOUT WHO'S GUILTY AND INNOCENT! I'M GETTING MIGHTY SICK OF THIS!

I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, OR WHO SET YOU UP AS JUDGE, JURY AND EXECUTIONER...

...BUT IF YOU RAISE A HAND AGAINST THE PEOPLE OF THIS PARISH--

--YOU STAND FIRST AGAINST IRON FIST!

NEXT ISSUE!

FLAME VS. FIST!

MARVEL COMICS

© 1992 MARVEL ENT GROUP INC

$1.50 US
$1.80 CAN / UK 80p
114
CC 02214
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

MARVEL® COMICS PRESENTS™

GHOST RIDER®

AND

IRON FIST™

ALSO:

ARABIAN KNIGHT™

S. McManus

"IF THE MIND'S EYE offend THEE..."

GHOST RIDER AND IRON FIST

YOU!

YOU CAUSED THIS!

YOU BROKE THE SANCTITY OF THESE RELIGIOUS RITES, AND FOR WHAT? A CHEAP DISPLAY OF POWER? SOME TAWDRY THRILL?

YOU ARE MISTAKEN...

I ARRIVED PERHAPS AS YOU DID--WHEN I HEARD THE CRIES OF THE HELPLESS...

WHY...SO YOU COULD EXPLOIT THEM FURTHER?

PICK ON ME--I'M NOT HELPLESS!

SKRAAAHKK

... I COULD NEVER BRING BRIMSTONE TO THOSE THAT REQURE BALM.

I SEEK TO PROTECT THEM FROM THEIR ENEMIES-- TO AVENGE THEIR PAIN--AND I CAN DO SO...

...AS EASILY AS I CAN UNDO THE DAMAGE YOU HAVE DONE!

FOR THE LAST TIME...

ME? OF ALL THE INFERNAL GALL--

"INFERNAL" IS PROBABLY THE TRUEST ASSESSMENT OF THESE CIRCUMSTANCES!

WERE I TO GAMBLE ON THE SOURCE OF THIS ATTACK, I--

HELP ME... PLEASE...

I CAN'T... TAKE ANOTHER ...STEP!

CYPRESS HILLS... THE GRAVEYARD... GUYS IN TRICK OR TREAT COSTUMES... JUST LIKE YOURS...

=COUGH= THE OTHERS! THEIR FACES... BURSTING OPEN... RIVERS OF PUS... AND VIRUSES...

YOU CAN'T HELP ME...

BUT THE OTHERS! THE OTH--

MY TIME HAS BEEN WASTED HERE.

EVIL RUNS RAMPANT-- THREATENING THE INNOCENT! I'LL SPAR NO MORE WITH THE LIKES OF YOU!

"SPAR"? IS THAT ALL YOU THINK I AM CAPABLE OF?

THERE IS NO-WHERE YOU CAN GO, MISTER... THAT IRON FIST CANNOT FOLLOW!

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS PLACE? THIS... WHAT DID HE CALL THE GRAVE-YARD?

CYPRESS HILLS.

KNOW THIS, HUMAN CALLED "IRON FIST"...

...IF THE GHOST RIDER'S TORTURED FRAME HELD A SOUL--

"--IT WOULD BE TO THAT CEMETERY TRULY BOUND FOREVER!"

AW, C'MON, DEB...

...WHO'S GONNA SEE?

I WILL SEE.

THE MIND'S EYE SEES EVERYTHING.

YOU PRACTICE DECEIT AND TREACHERY... OR YOU WOULD NOT COME TO SUCH A PLACE AS THIS TO HIDE!

PUNISHMENT IS CALLED FOR... ADMINISTERED BY--

--BACILLUS, CONTROLLER OF CONTAGION! MASTER OF MICROBES!

...HIS VERY TOUCH BRINGS... SICKNESS... DISEASE... INFECTION!

NO! NO! KEEP HIM AWAY FROM ME! I... WE... DON'T DESERVE THIS!

CYPRESS HILLS IS A PLACE WHERE THE DEAD ARE BROUGHT BY THE LIVING...

...NOT WHERE THE LIVING CREATE MORE DEAD!

YOU SELF-STYLED *CARRIER* OF THE *NEW* BLACK DEATH!

YOU'LL SPREAD YOUR POISON NO FURTHER!

THE WORLD DOESN'T *NEED* ME TO *SPREAD* TOXINS!

I ONLY PROVIDE A DISEASED *BODY*... TO MATCH A *DISEASED SOUL!*

PRECISELY WHAT I HAD IN MIND!

GAAAA

THE ONLY DISEASE HERE IS IN YOUR *OWN* SICK MIND!

IF YOU WANT HER, YOU'LL DEAL WITH *ME* FIRST.

CAN FEEL... MY OWN **BLOOD**... **CHURNING** INSIDE ME!..

...TEMPERATURE RISING... MAKING MY HEAD SWIM!

... HEAD FEELS... LIKE ITS GOING TO EXPLODE!

IF ONLY I HADN'T USED MY LIVING WEAPON POWER ON THE GHOST RIDER'S CYCLE! I MIGHT BE ABLE TO CURE MYSELF WITH IT!

BUT... IT TAKES... TIME...

...TO RESTORE IT TO... FULL CAPACITY!

THEY'RE GETTING AWAY... THIS IS **MY** FAULT!

THERE IS NO NEED TO BLAME YOURSELF!

NONE CAN HIDE FROM ME FOR LONG!

BUT FOR YOU, IRON FIST...

...LET US SEE TO IT THAT THIS GRAVEYARD DOES NOT BECOME YOUR FINAL RESTING PLACE YET.

AT THE SAME TIME...

--NOW AND AT THE HOUR OF OUR DEATH... AMEN.

LORD, HEAR OUR PLEA...YOUR FAITHFUL HAVE TAKEN THEIR VIGIL TO THE STREETS...

...TO HONOR THE DEAD OF THE PARISH OF SAINT ALFONSO'S, AND TO PROTECT US AGAINST THE UNHOLY SCOURGE THAT ATTACKED YOUR SACRED HOME.

PLEASE HEAR OUR PRAYERS... INSTILL IN YOUR FOLLOWERS THE PEACE OF FORGIVENESS TO REPLACE THE ANGER AND OUTRAGE WE FEEL AT OUR LOSS!

WHAT ABOUT *OUR* OUTRAGE?

PEOPLE IN THIS COMMUNITY HAVE DIED... AND WHAT IS THIS CITY DOING ABOUT IT?

THEY'LL *PAY* FOR IGNORING US!

WE'LL *MAKE* THEM PAY!

PAY?!?

YOUR SENSE OF OUTRAGE HAS A *BOTTOM LINE*... A *PROFIT MOTIVE?*

YOU HAVEN'T LIVED TO EXPERIENCE TRUE OUTRAGE!

YOU HYPOCRITES WHO ROB IN THE NAME OF IN-JUSTICE...

IF YOU WANT TO RAVAGE AND PLUNDER YOUR OWN BACK YARD...

...LET *ME* DO IT FOR YOU!

I'LL BURN MY NAME INTO YOUR STREETS... THE NAME OF ***VESPER***, GODDESS OF THE CANDLELIGHT!

AND THEY'LL LEARN TO FEAR *MY* NAME... TWICE AS MUCH AS YOURS!

WHO IS THIS MYSTERIOUS FIGURE? FIND OUT... NEXT ISSUE!

MARVEL COMICS

TM
© 1992 MARVEL ENT. GROUP, INC.

$1.50 US
$1.80 CAN/UK 80p
115
CC 02214
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS

GHOST RIDER

AND

IRON FIST

ALSO

CLOAK AND DAGGER

THE SECRET OF STRONTIUM 90!

FEATURING GHOST RIDER AND IRON FIST

I'M NOT STAYING IN THE SHADOWS ANYMORE!

IT'S TIME TO REVEAL--

LAY THE HYPOCRITES LOW!

THEY'RE ALL DOOMED... THOSE THAT USE TRAGEDY TO FURTHER THEIR OWN ENDS--

--THAT PRETEND MORAL OUTRAGE TO ROB THEIR NEIGHBORS...

...THEIR FATE IS SEALED!

POISONED MINDS DESERVE POISONED LIVES!

THEY'VE BROUGHT MY RADIOACTIVE WRATH UPON THEMSELVES!

LOOKS LIKE *RADIATION POISONING*... ONLY INCREDIBLY ACCELERATED!

HOW ARE WE GOING TO FIND THIS STRONTIUM-90 CHARACTER AGAIN?

FEEL LIKE MY GUTS ARE CHURNING! SO... WEAK...

...CAN'T STAND UP!

IF HE TRULY IS PRODUCING RADIO-ACTIVITY...

HE WILL LEAVE A TRAIL THAT IS TREMENDOUSLY "HOT!"

GET 'EM BEFORE THEY CAN POISON ANYBODY ELSE!

MISTAKEN IDENTITY.

THIS GETS OLD FAST!

THEY ARE NOT MISTAKEN. THEY WANT A TARGET FOR THEIR RAGE... AND THEY HAVE FOUND IT IN US!

YOU LOOK LIKE YOU GOT A DOSE OF THE SAME MEDICINE!

HOWZIT FEEL BEIN' ON THE RECEIVING END?

I WAS INFECTED, TOO, BY THE MANIAC CALLED BACILLUS. IF I DON'T BREAK FREE OF THIS MOB AND FIND HIM... I'LL DIE!

THEY BUILD THESE ICONS TO PIETY AND HOLINESS...

...AND USE THEM TO MASK THEIR TRUE FEELINGS OF GREED AND POWER LUST!

VESPER WILL ENSURE THAT THEY CAN NEVER HIDE BEHIND THEM AGAIN!

FOR WHEN HYPOCRISY RULES... CHAOS MUST FOLLOW!

KRAKOOM

NOT TODAY!

HA! TODAY... AND FOREVER AFTER, IF OUR WILL BE DONE!

OUR WORK IS COMPLETE FOR THIS NIGHT! LET US RETURN TO OUR SANCTUM... AND LET THE MASSES DEAL WITH THOSE SANCTIMONIOUS POSERS WHO DARED STOP US!

WHILE WE FADE INTO THE NIGHT!

RIGHT. THE CROWD'LL KEEP 'EM BUSY--

STAND AWAY FROM IRON FIST--

--OR CONFRONT A POWER--

--BEYOND YOUR GRAVEST IMAGIN-INGS!

VZZZZZ

THOSE CHAIN LINKS! THEY'RE--

--THROWING STARS!

ZOK

ZOK

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

VESPER MENTIONED SOMETHING ABOUT A "SANCTUM"... SOME UNHOLY RETREAT THEY KEEP, NO DOUBT.

THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE ONE CALLED STRONTIUM-90 ARE EASILY TRACEABLE.

HUNH? A RADIOACTIVE TRAIL'S NOT VISIBLE TO THE NAKED EYE. HOW CAN--?

NOTHING ESCAPES ME.

YOU PROMISED ME ONCE THAT THIS CEMETERY WOULD NOT BECOME MY FINAL RESTING PLACE.

BUT STILL IT MIGHT BE.

BACILLUS'S INFECTION IS STILL RAGING THROUGH MY SYSTEM. ONLY MY K'UN L'UN TRAINING IS KEEPING ME FROM SUCCUMBING TO IT!

MY OWN POWER OF THE LIVING WEAPON WOULD HEAL ME... BUT SINCE I'VE ALREADY TRIED USING IT UNWISELY ON YOU AND VESPER... THE POWER'S DENIED ME FOR A TIME! BY THEN, I COULD BE DEAD!

FEAR NOT. THE TRAIL HAS REACHED ITS END.

DEAD END, YOU MEAN. THAT MAUSOLEUM DOOR IS SOLID STONE. IMPOSSIBLE TO OPEN!

IMPOSSIBLE? I AM A CREATURE OF THE IMPOSSIBLE!

WHA-BLAAAM

GRIM UNDERTAKINGS REQUIRE GRIM SURROUNDINGS! THE TREACHERY THAT WAITS WITHIN THESE WALLS...

...CANNOT BE CONTAINED BY MERE STONE!

IT'S... IT'S...

DON'T GROPE FOR A NAME.

COLLECTIVELY, WE ARE KNOWN AS THE LEGION OF VENGEANCE, THE WORLD'S DEADLIEST HEROES.

VENGEANCE?

HEROES?

THE TERRITORY YOU CLAIM... THE PATHS YOU STRIDE... BELONG TO US!

LET'S SEE WHAT KIND OF FIGHT YOU PUT UP... WITHOUT ANY CROWDS OF INNOCENT PEOPLE TO SLOW US DOWN!

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU CAN TRAP THE GODDESS OF CANDLELIGHT... WHETHER OR NOT YOUR POWERS ARE FETTERED BY THE ROARING MOB?

YOU WILL PAY DEARLY FOR LASHING OUT AT INNOCENTS!

NO ONE IS INNOCENT! EVERYONE IS CULPABLE! EVERYONE IS GUILTY!

I ALONE SEE THE SINS EVERYONE TRIES TO HIDE IN THEIR HEARTS!

WE WERE PUT ON THIS EARTH TO PUNISH THE GUILTY!

YOU WERE TOO STRONG FOR BACILLUS AND ME THE FIRST TIME...

BUT ONCE I GET A CHANCE TO TOUCH YOU A SECOND TIME... YOU WON'T SURVIVE A SECOND INFECTION!

NO! ...NO!

COURAGE, IRON FIST...

...I THINK I HAVE FOUND THE KEY TO *DEFEATING* THIS SO-CALLED "LEGION OF VENGEANCE!"

THEIR COMBINED POWER CANNOT HOLD ME AT BAY FOR LONG!

IT WONT BE NECES-SARY!

EVEN *NOW*, YOUR WEAKENED COLLEAGUE FALLS TO THE SICKNESS WITHIN HIM.

HELP... ME...

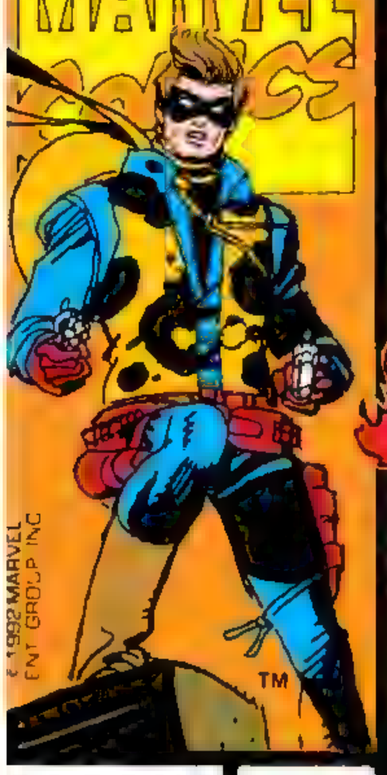
AND I DIDN'T EVEN *HAVE* TO INFLICT MY DREADED CON-TAGION ON HIM ONCE MORE!

THE FEVER HAS FINALLY CAUSED HIM TO FALL...FROM THE *PREVIOUS* TOXIC TOUCH OF PLAGUE!

THE TRIUMPH OF THE LEGION OF VENGEANCE IS ASSURED!

CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE...

MARVEL



© 1992 MARVEL ENT GROUP INC

$1.50 US
$1.80 CAN / UK 80p
116
CC 02214
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS™

GHOST RIDER®

AND

IRON FIST™

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

GIANT-MAN™

AND

TWO-GUN KID™

S. MS/MANDS '92

A BLAST OF RADIOACTIVITY WILL FINISH IRON FIST OFF!

STAY BACK! HIS FATE IS IN *MY* HAND!

THE HAND OF *BACILLUS!*

ONE *FINAL INFECTION*, AND THAT FATE WILL BE *SEALED!*

GET *ON* WITH IT! NOT EVEN THE SMOKE I'M CREATING--

--WILL KEEP THE GHOST RIDER FROM INTERFERING FOR LONG!

FEVER... MAKING MY HEAD SWIM. CAN HARDLY SEE... OR HOLD MY HEAD UP..

IF I WASN'T A DISCIPLE TRAINED AT K'UN L'UN... I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND THIS...

BUT IF BACILLUS TOUCHES ME AGAIN... I'LL *DIE!*

LEGION OF VENGEANCE
FEATURING
GHOST RIDER and IRON FIST

PART 4: OUR NAME IS

LEGION...

SO... BEFORE HE CAN GRAB ME--

--I'LL TAKE THE INITIATIVE!

LET 'IM GO, PAL, OR YOU'LL SEE WHAT STRONTIUM-90 CAN DO! YOU'LL GET THE MOST INTENSE BLAST OF RADIATION I CAN MUSTER!

I DON'T THINK SO.

NOT WHILE I'M USING YOUR FRIEND AS A SHIELD!

CLEVER BOY.

I'M JUST A LITTLE *MORE* CLEVER.

WATCH THIS. SINCE THE *CURES* AND INOCULATIONS FOR MOST DISEASES ARE MADE FROM GERMS AND BACILLI... I'M BETTING THAT YOU CAN FORMULATE THE CURE TO WHAT YOU'VE GIVEN *ME!*

AND YOU'LL DO IT *NOW*-- OR I'LL SNAP YOU IN HALF!

IT'S... *WORKING!*

I'VE BECOME... *WHOLE!*

YOU WON'T GET PAST ME!

THE MIND'S EYE SEES NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH... AND IN TRUTH, THERE IS STRENGTH!

...

THE TRUTH? I WOULD KNOW THE TRUTH!

THE SPIKES ON MY CESTUS WILL KEEP YOU FROM YET AGAIN FADING INTO THE DARKNESS...

...WHILE I FIND OUT WHO YOU ARE... AND WHERE YOU COME FROM!

CURIOUS? ASK US!

YOUR TIME WILL COME, REST ASSURED...

...BUT I PREFER TO DEAL WITH YOU INDIVIDUALLY, NOT COLLECTIVELY.

HELLFIRE WILL BRING ENOUGH OF THE CEILING DOWN...

...TO KEEP YOU THREE BACK LONG ENOUGH TO GET TO THE TRUTH.

MY PENANCE STARE WILL INSURE THAT YOU CONTINUE TO FEEL THE PAIN YOU'VE INFLICTED ON OTHERS...

...UNTIL YOU TELL US HOW YOU CAME TO BE.

"MY ORIGINS ARE HUMBLE ENOUGH.

"IN TIMES LIKE THESE, IT'S DIFFICULT STAYING AHEAD OF THE COMPETITION IN ANY BUSINESS...

"...SO I SPENT MANY HOURS IN THE SHOP, GRINDING EXPERIMENTAL LENSES...

"...THIS TIME OUT OF A STRANGE MATERIAL I'D RECENTLY DISCOVERED AT A DIG NEAR A TEST SITE."

YOU DON'T WANT TO GIVE THE BAD ELEMENT IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD ANY *IDEAS*.

"I'D KNOWN THE BEAT COP SINCE I'D OPENED THE STORE...

G'NITE, DOC...

DON'T STAY IN THE STORE TOO LATE.

"...A PATIENT, GENTLE MAN IF EVER I'D MET ONE.

"AT LEAST, THAT'S HOW HE APPEARED THROUGH MY EYES.

"BUT THROUGH MY LENSES..."

"...THAT WAS QUITE SOMETHING ELSE.

"I SAW HIS TRUE NATURE.

"...WHEN I WAS INTERRUPTED BY MY PLEASANT YOUNG ASSISTANT..."

"THE LENSES PIERCED HIS FACADE, ALLOWING ME TO SEE THE **TRUTH** WITHIN. I CONTINUED TO STARE AFTER HIM, ASTONISHED BY THE REVELATION...

HAVE A NICE EVENING, MR. MEACHAM.

"...A WOMAN WHO, IT SEEMS, WAS STEALING FROM ME TO FEED A VICIOUS DRUG HABIT.'

"WHEREVER I TURNED MY ATTENTION, THE LENSES SHOWED ME THE **TRUTH**.

"HYPOCRISY WAS RAMPANT! I WAS LIVING IN A WORLD OF **LIES**.

"RESPONDING TO THE **MASKS** ALL AROUND ME, I MADE ONE OF MY OWN... PLACING LARGER LENSES INSIDE MY HOOD!

"I BECAME MIND'S EYE...THE OMNISCIENT! NO MAN HIDES THE TRUTH FROM ME **NOW**!"

"THE MIND'S EYE STORY PARALLELS MY OWN.

"MY LIFE WAS DEVOTED TO MY WORSHIP. I PRACTICED NIGHTLY WITH MY CHURCH'S CHOIR.

"THE TALL CANDLES ALWAYS HELD A CURIOUS FASCINATION FOR ME.

"...BUT NOW, EVEN MORE SO.

"I SAW A VISION WITHIN ONE.

"A VISION OF AN IDEAL... A VISION OF THE WOMAN I COULD BECOME THROUGH EVEN STRONGER DEVOTION.

"BUT FIRST, THAT DEVOTION REQUIRED A TEST."

BE NOT AFRAID. PLACE YOUR ARM INTO THE FLAME.

"THE FLAMES SPREAD UP MY ARM, ENGULFING ALL OF ME...

"UNTIL THE FLAMES AND I WERE ONE. I BECAME VESPER, THE LIVING EMBODIMENT OF SPIRITUALITY AND CANDLELIGHT!"

"WE, ON THE OTHER HAND, WERE DEVOTED TO SCIENCE, NOT SPIRITUALITY.

"WE SOUGHT THE SALVATION OF MANKIND THROUGH SCIENTIFIC METHODS ... EXPERIMENTING WITH THE EFFECTS OF RADIATION ON DISEASE.

"GERMS APPEARED TO US AS A CODE TRANSMITTED TO THE HUMAN SYSTEM. COULD THEY HAVE AN INTELLIGENCE OF THEIR OWN?

"WE WERE NEVER TO FIND OUT."

GET OUT OF THE WAY! THE BEAM'S ACTIVATED THE BACILLI!

YOW! WHO TURNED ON THE RAY?

I'M COVERED WITH THE STUFF! I COULD BE CONTAMINATED OR... WORSE!

WATCH IT!

YOU'VE KNOCKED ME INTO THE BEAM!

"WE WERE CONTAMINATED ... BUT ONLY BY POWER!

"THE POWER OF STRONTIUM-90... AND BACILLUS!"

THERE IS MORE TO YOUR STORIES THAN EVEN YOU KNOW.

I DETECTED A STRANGE PRESENCE LURKING ON THE PERIPHERY OF EACH OF YOUR LIVES... ONE THAT WAS BEYOND YOUR OWN AWARENESS!

A DEMONIC PRESENCE!

YOU HAVE WARPED THEIR LIVES, DEMON!

I DEMAND THAT YOU COME OUT FROM THE SHADOWS... AND SHOW YOURSELF!

...THE DEMON D'KAY!

YOU ARE IN NO POSITION TO MAKE DEMANDS OF ANYONE.

FOR YOU HAVE NO RESOURCE... NO DEFENSE... AGAINST A DEMON FROM THE PIT...

CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE...

MARVEL COMICS

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS

GHOST RIDER

AND

IRON FIST

1992 MARVEL ENT GROUP INC

$1.50 US
$1.80 CAN/UK 80p
117
02214
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

RAGE 2099

A WORLD OF D'KAY

YOU WHO CALL YOURSELVES HEROES! LET US SEE HOW YOU FARE AGAINST...

IN *MY* WORLD, HEROES SUCH AS BACILLUS, STRONTIUM-90, VESPER AND MIND'S EYE DECIDE WHAT IS RIGHT AND WRONG!

THAT IS, I DECIDE!

THE LEGION OF VENGEANCE WAS *MY* CREATION! THEIR SENSE OF *JUSTICE*, THEIR RATIONALES FOR THEIR *OUTRAGE* ...ARE *MY* OWN AS WELL!

COME CLOSER! *CLOSER!* I'M HOLDING THEM IN *STASIS* SO THAT YOU MAY INSPECT THE FUTURE UP CLOSE!

LEGION OF VENGEANCE PT. 5

FEATURING

GHOST RIDER and IRON FIST

THE FUTURE?

DON'T BE HESITANT, IRON FIST! *STEP UP!* THE HEROES OF TOMORROW *BECKON!*

WHAT'S THE MATTER, DON'T YOU TRUST ME? HA HA HA HA HA!

YOU STAND ON THE CUSP OF A GRAND AND GLORIOUS NEW CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY OF HUMANITY!

YOU ARE ABOUT TO BE SWEPT ONTO THE DUNG HEAP OF HISTORY--

--OUTCLASSED... OUTMODED... SHUNTED ASIDE... BY AVATARS OF JUSTICE SUCH AS THESE.

OH, YOU EACH CUT QUITE A FIGURE... IN YOUR *DAY*. BUT LIKE SCRAP METAL THAT NO ONE HAS ANY USE FOR, YOU WILL BE MELTED DOWN INTO SO MUCH *SLAG*. WORN DOWN, ERODED AND RUSTED BY THE INEXORABLE MARCH OF TIME!

CARE TO SEE IT? CARE TO SEE THE REMARKABLE PANORAMA OF THE REST OF YOUR LIVES? OF *ALL* YOUR LIVES?

I DON'T HAVE ANY *PATIENCE* FOR THIS. SAY WHAT YOU *HAVE* TO SAY, OR LET US DEAL WITH YOUR SO-CALLED "HEROES" ONCE AND FOR ALL.

HA HA HA... DON'T BE SO *PROSAIC*. I OFFER YOU AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEE WHAT LIES AHEAD FOR MANKIND... AND ITS NEW AVENGERS!

MY ONLY REQUEST IS THAT YOU ACCOMPANY ME TO THE *PIT*... TO SEE IT IN ITS FULL *SPLENDOR*! WILL YOU JOIN ME, OR DO YOU FEAR YOUR OBSOLESCENCE THAT MUCH?

WE *AGREE* TO COME...

IF ONLY TO PROVE THAT WE FEAR NOTHING!

WHAT IN THE NAME OF ALL THAT'S HOLY IS THAT *SMELL*?

SULFUR AND BRIMSTONE...

...AND I ASSURE YOU THERE IS NOTHING HOLY ABOUT IT!

I CAN SEE WHY D'KAY IS UNIMPRESSED BY HEROES...

...HE MUST BE CREATING SOME OTHER HERO WHO CAN TURN INTO A ROOM DEODORIZER THE SIZE OF MARS.

IS IT SO UNCOMFORTABLE HERE FOR YOU, IRON FIST?

YOU'VE BEEN AS GOOD AS DEAD BEFORE. SURELY YOU MUST KNOW WHAT THIS IS LIKE!

FOR EXAMPLE...

A PLAGUE OF BIBLICAL PROPORTIONS!

SO MANY OF THEM... THE SKY'S ECLIPSED BY THEM ALL! EVERYTHING AROUND ME IS BLACK!

THEY'RE... THEY'RE...

EEEEAAAAAA

MY... MY APOLOGIES, IRON FIST!

WE HAVE BEEN... SORELY *DECEIVED!*

D'KAY MEANT ONLY TO GET US INTO THIS TIMELESS DIMENSION... TO *TORTURE* US LIKE MISERABLE *SINNERS!*

TIMELESS, YOU SAY?

THEN THE *HEALING POWER* OF THE *LIVING WEAPON* WILL *WORK* HERE. NO NEED TO WAIT FOR ENOUGH TIME TO PASS... WHERE TIME IS *MEANINGLESS.*

YOU MARSHAL YOUR RESOURCES WELL...

"...A REMINDER THAT I HAVE RESOURCES--

--OF MY *OWN.*

I GUESS I NEVER *WAS* REALLY AND TRULY "*DEAD*" BEFORE.

IF I *HAD* BEEN, I WOULD HAVE *REMEMBERED* SOMETHING LIKE *THIS,* THAT'S FOR SURE.

YOU SPEAK TRUTH.

AND AS FOR ME--TO PLACE IT IN WHOLLY EARTHLY TERMS--

--I FEAR THAT I HAVE BEEN *THROWN OUT* OF BETTER PLACES THAN THIS ONE!

HA HA HA HA ! YOU AGREED TO ACCOMPANY ME TO THE PIT. NOW IT IS MEET AND JUST TO FULFILL MY PART OF THE BARGAIN!

I DID HOPE I COULD HAVE TRAPPED YOU HERE, ALLOWING MY HEROES TO GO FORWARD TO SEE MY GRAND SCHEME THROUGH.

BUT HERE OR NOT, YOU'VE BEEN SO INEFFECTUAL AGAINST THE LEGION OF VENGEANCE, THAT IT REALLY DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER YOU FINALLY FACE THEM OR NOT!

EITHER WAY, I WIN!

WIN WHAT? WHAT ARE THE STAKES FOR WHICH YOU GAMBLE?

EVERYTHING. THE ENTIRE POT. I HAVE BET IT ALL ON THESE FOUR AMBITIOUS PEOPLE.

ALL OF THEM COULD SUCCEED IN THEIR OWN FIELDS. BUT THROUGHOUT THEIR PAST LIVES, GREED AND STUPIDITY AND IMPATIENCE MADE THEM PREY TO SIN ...

... AND THROUGH SIN I COULD CONTROL THEM!

I TOOK OVER THEIR SUBCONCIOUS MINDS, EACH OF THEM. TRICKED THEM INTO BELIEVING THAT THEY WERE HEROES. PLANTED RATIONALIZATIONS THAT LED THEM TO BELIEVE THAT ONLY THEY WERE RIGHT AND RIGHTEOUS.

THEY THINK THEY HAVE SUPER POWERS FOR NOBLE, HEROIC REASONS.

BUT THOSE POWERS MAKE THEM MY HARBINGERS OF DOOM!

THEIR EXISTENCE SPELLS NOTHING LESS THAN THE END OF EVERYTHING HUMAN ON YOUR WORLD!

AH... A NEW AND SOMBER LOOK OF RESPECT CROSSES YOUR FACES NOW. GOOD... BECAUSE I'D WORRY IF I WERE YOU.

AS MY HARBINGERS OF DOOM, THEY HERALD THE BETRAYAL AND CORRUPTION OF EVERYTHING HUMAN.

AND JUSTICE FOR ALL WHO CAN PAY.

THE MIND'S EYE. HA... THE EYE SEES CLEARLY... IT IS THE MIND THAT WARPS HIS VISION.

THE MIND THAT ADMINISTERS JUSTICE BASED ON HIS WRONG CONCLUSIONS.

THUS, THE MIND'S EYE IS MY FIRST HERALD OF HUMANITY'S DOOM... THE BETRAYAL OF THE MIND.

AFTER THAT, WHAT ELSE CAN FAIL HUMANITY?

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN SO ILL THAT YOU COULD NOT GET A SINGLE MOTOR NERVE TO OBEY A SIMPLE COMMAND?

THEN YOU HAVE MET MY SECOND HARBINGER OF DOOM... BACILLUS, WHO REPRESENTS THE BETRAYAL OF THE BODY.

DEFILER OF THE ELEMENTS.

DESPOILER OF THE ENVIRONMENT.

SOONER OR LATER, THE VERY PLANET WILL RISE UP AGAINST MANKIND, TO PAY IN KIND THE IRREPARABLE DAMAGE THAT GREED AND STUPIDITY AND IMPATIENCE HAS DONE!

WHEN IT DOES, IT WILL BE LED BY STRONTIUM-90...

...MY AGENT FOR THE BETRAYAL OF THE EARTH.

WHAT IS LEFT FOR MANKIND?

WHEN MIND AND BODY AND EARTH ARE GONE, WHAT FRAGILE HOPE IS THERE LEFT?

LOOK AT HER. SHE COULD GRANT THE MASSES HER GRACE, BUT INSTEAD, SHE USES HER SPIRITUALITY FOR HER OWN GLORIFICATION.

SHE IS THE CORRUPTION OF MAN'S LAST HOPE.

SHE IS VESPER. SHE IS THE FINAL BETRAYAL. THE BETRAYAL OF GOD.

THE AFTERLIFE? GONE. THE SPIRIT? GONE. THE SOUL? GONE.

I CANNOT KEEP YOU HERE. THE GHOST RIDER COULD *EASILY* RETURN YOU TO EARTH FROM THE PIT. SO I CAST YOU BACK.

HERE AND THERE WILL SOON BE *INDISTINGUISHABLE* ANYWAY. SO I BID YOU RETURN. YOU WILL SUFFER... AS *ALL* OF HUMANITY WILL SUFFER!

D'KAY'S SPELL HAS WORN OFF! THE LEGION'S SPRINGING TO *LIFE* AGAIN!

LIFE?

YOU WILL BE NO AUTHORITY ON WHAT CONSTITUTES *LIFE* --

ONCE *WE'RE* THROUGH!

COURAGE! WE HAVE SEEN THE *END* OF MANKIND, BUT THE END IS NOT YET...

...FOR IN THE ENDING... I HAVE SEEN THE SEEDS OF A NEW BEGINNING!

THE BATTLE IS JOINED!

CONCLUDES NEXT ISSUE...

MARVEL COMICS

TM

© 1992 MARVEL ENT GROUP INC

$1.50 US
$1.80 CAN / UK 80p
118
CC 02214
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS™

GHOST RIDER®

AND

IRON FIST®

ALSO:

DOOM 2099™

VENGEANCE IS OURS!

THE DEMON D'KAY *RETURNED* US HERE... *CONFIDENT* THAT WE WOULD BE BESTED BY HIS *LEGION OF VENGEANCE.*

IT'S PURE SADISM ON D'KAY'S PART. HE *KNOWS* WE'RE THE PLANET'S LAST LINE OF DEFENSE.

YOU CAN'T HOLD OUT AGAINST US... IN OUR OWN SANCTUM!

WITH *YOU* GONE, WE WILL BEGIN TO TAKE OUR *RIGHTFUL* PLACE AS THIS WORLD'S *TRUE HEROES...*

AND THEN GO ON TO BECOME ITS *SAVIORS...* ITS *GODS!*

LEGION OF VENGEANCE PT. 6
FEATURING
GHOST RIDER and IRON FIST

GODS OF DESTRUCTION AND *CHAOS!* BUT FOR *NOW* YOU ARE *STILL MORTAL.*

IT IS *SMALL* LEVERAGE... BUT IT MAY PROVE TO BE *ENOUGH!*

WE'RE THE ONES WITH THE EDGE! YOU'RE ON *OUR TURF*, REMEMBER?

WE KNOW EVERY CORNER OF THIS PLACE, AND CAN USE IT AGAINST YOU!

SURRENDER NOW, AND D'KAY WILL RESERVE A SPECIAL PLACE FOR YOU IN THE PIT!

MY SPECIAL PLACE, FOR THE TIME BEING, IS HERE!

THE MIND'S EYE CAN BECOME ONE WITH THE *SHADOWS* AND BEAR *SILENT WITNESS* TO THE END OF GHOST RIDER AND IRON FIST!

GO, BACILLUS!

THE LAST TIME MY CONTAGION SPREAD THROUGHOUT YOUR BODY, I BROUGHT YOU TO THE BRINK OF DEATH!

WITH THE COMBINED MIGHT OF *MY* POWER AND *STRONTIUM-90'S* RADIATION POISONING, YOU WILL NOT SURVIVE A SECOND TIME!

YOU ARE THE WEAK LINK IN THE CHAIN OF EVENTS THAT COULD SAVE YOU!

THIS IS THE ONLY CHAIN YOU WILL COME TO KNOW!

YOUR ATTACK IS FOOL-HARDY!

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO I COME IN CONTACT WITH FIRST, YOU OR YOUR OUTMODED KUNG FU EXPERT FRIEND.

HOLD ON, IRON FIST! IT WILL HURT, BUT ONLY FOR A SHORT TIME! THEN, THE PEACE THAT COMES WITH DEATH...

BEFORE THE DAY IS DONE, YOU WILL *WISH* FOR THAT PEACE!

YOU CAN'T HOLD ME *FOREVER!*

WHAT A LAME ATTEMPT TO STOP US! IT'S AN *INSULT!*

LET *ME* TAKE CARE OF THIS!

THIS CHAIN CANNOT BE BROKEN... UNLESS I WILL IT!

AND MY WILL... MY RESOLVE... IS STRONGER THAN ANY OF YOURS!

A YANK OF THE CHAIN--

--AND BACILLUS CONTAMINATES *YOU!*

NO!

THE... THE FEVER'S TAKEN ME... ALMOST INSTANTLY!

BACILLUS MUST HAVE BEEN STORING *UP* THAT CHARGE OF CONTAGION FOR SOME TIME...

BUT... HE NEVER MEANT IT TO BE USED ON ME!

IF I COULD JUST GET A CLEAR--

OOG!

HAHAHA!

VESPER'S BUZZING ME...TAUNTING ME...

...YET STAYING TANTALIZINGLY OUT OF REACH!

YOU CAN'T RETALIATE AGAINST AN ADVERSARY YOU CANNOT FIND IN THE DARK!

HE CAN'T GET FREE NOW, VESPER!

START YOUR RITUAL OF... *PURIFICATION!*

SCRIPTURE SPEAKS OF ACOLYTES BEING POSSESSED BY TONGUES OF *FIRE!*

PERHAPS A BATH OF CLEANSING FLAME... WILL EVEN MAKE *YOU* ONE OF *US!*

AND WHILE THERE'S STILL *SMOKE* IN THAT ALL-SEEING EYE OF HIS...

NO CHANCE!

BUT YOU DID MANAGE TO SINGE *MIND'S EYE* SO THAT HE'D LET GO OF ME!

...I GET THE CHANCE TO DO *THIS!*

I'VE GOT A PRETTY GOOD EYE MYSELF!

READY... AIM...

...BULLSEYE, SO TO SPEAK!

YOU HAVE MADE THEM A TARGET ...FOR *ME* AS WELL!

BACILLUS'S BOUND HANDS WILL INFECT EACH OF THEM--

--TILL ULTIMATELY, I TURN HIS POWER...ON *HIMSELF!*

THE FEVER WITHIN THEM BURNS BRIGHTER THAN A THOUSAND SUNS!

YOU WILL SEE THAT WITH FEVER... COMES FEVER *DREAMS.*

THEY ARE VULNERABLE ENOUGH NOW FOR US TO *CONTROL* THOSE VISIONS WITH A MERE *SUGGESTION...*

YOU WILL SEE YOURSELVES AS YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE SEEN...EACH AT THE FOREFRONT OF YOUR CHOSEN FIELDS!

DO-GOODERS, HEROIC ADVENTURERS, UPSTANDING CITIZENS, GETTING THE RESPECT AND ADMIRATION OF COLLEAGUES...

...SOMETHING EVEN AN ENTITY LIKE MYSELF WOULD DEVOUTLY DESIRE.

BUT UNDERSTAND YOUR LIVES AS THEY HAVE TRULY BECOME...

...PAWNS OF A FORCE BEYOND YOUR IMAGINATION!

THIS FORCE HAS MADE YOU INTO THE VERY ANTITHESIS OF THE THINGS YOU'VE WORKED FOR AND STOOD FOR ALL YOUR NATURAL LIVES!

YOU HAVE BECOME THE HERALDS OF HUMANITY'S DOOM... AND LIKE IT OR NOT, YOU ARE STILL PART OF THAT HUMANITY!

THE PAIN YOU ARE EXPERIENCING NOW IS MINISCULE, COMPARED TO WHAT YOU WILL EXPERIENCE WHEN D'KAY GETS HIS WAY...

...AND YOUR POWERS HARBINGER THE END OF THE EARTH!

BUT...WHAT CAN WE DO *NOW?*

YOU CAN USE THOSE POWERS FOR THAT WHICH IS *TRULY* WORTHWHILE!

THAT'S RIGHT. EVEN *GHOST RIDER*, WHOSE PATH I WOULDN'T WANT TO SHARE, MANAGES TO STEER HIS STRANGE ABILITIES TOWARD THE PATH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS!

SANCTIMONIOUS WORDS...

...BUT THEY RING *HOLLOW!*

BECAUSE I'D NEVER *LET* THAT HAPPEN!

I'LL TAKE THEIR POWERS *AWAY* FIRST!

THERE! THEY'VE BEEN RETURNED TO THEIR HOMES AND LIVES OF OBSCURITY AND MEDIOCRITY! YOU'VE GUARANTEED THAT THEY WILL NEVER KNOW GREATNESS... ONLY *OBLIVION!*

SATISFIED?

I HOPE *THEY* ARE!

THEY ARE BETTER OFF.

I KNOW THAT SUCH POWER IS A *CURSE.*

ONCE YOU GET IT...

...IT'S A BURDEN YOU BEAR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE!

LUST FOR POWER... *ANY* POWER... NEVER FADES!

REST ASSURED... THEY WILL *RETURN!*

HAHAHA!

THE END... FOR NOW!

MARVEL AGE #87 COVER BY **MARK TEXEIRA**

THE OFFICIAL MARVEL® FAN MAGAZINE!

MARVEL AGE®

EXCLUSIVE 5-PAGE PREVIEW OF THE ALL-NEW

GHOST RIDER™

SUPER SWEEPSTAKES!
SEE PAGE 13 FOR DETAILS!

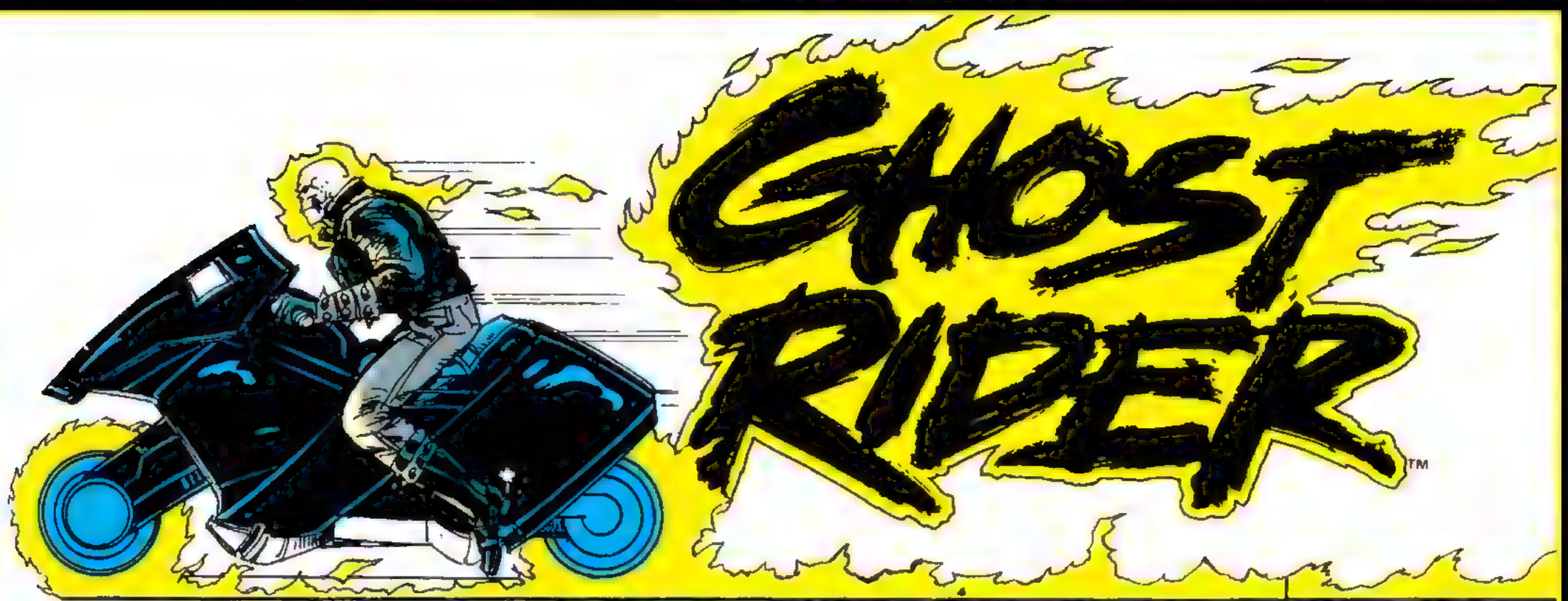
JOHN CANDY
IN HIS OWN MARVEL MAG?

$1.00 US
$1.25 CAN
87
APR
CC 01397

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

CBG FAN AWARDS
WINNER
FAVORITE PUBLICATION ABOUT COMICS

WOLVERINE™
WRITER LARRY HAMA SPEAKS! WHO IS MARVEL'S LATEST, GREATEST
HERO?
SEE PAGE 12!



The streets of Brooklyn, New York. Full of grit and sweat. Full of secrets. Enter **Danny Ketch.** While he may not be a household name yet, Danny has a *big* secret. You see, Danny Ketch is the new **Ghost Rider.** That's right, GHOST RIDER is back, and he's looking *hot!*

"It seems that the time is right for GHOST RIDER's return" said editor **Bobbie Chase.** "He's a very interesting character, and writer **Howard Mackie** is putting a lot of his own experiences into the book." Not that Howard is possessed by a demon and walks around with a blazing skull atop his shoulders. Well, not *any more.* Howard is however, an old time Brooklynite and his knowledge of the area gives the new GHOST RIDER an air of authenticity. Danny Ketch's stomping grounds will have the sounds, smells, and look of our world. Very urban, very grim, visually distinct from most other books. Which brings us to **Javier Saltares,** GHOST RIDER's penciler.

After seeing what Howard had in mind for the new GHOST RIDER series, Bobbie Chase immediately approached Javier to take on the task of visualizing GHOST RIDER's world. "Javier's pencils are *hot*!" raved Bobbie. "Other Marvel artists come into my office and ask to look at the GHOST RIDER pages for inspiration." Black leather and polished chrome are essential parts of GHOST RIDER's look, as well as a gritty, shadow-filled atmosphere. Javier comes up with the goods on all points. As Ghost Rider, Danny Ketch deals justice from a truly wild looking motorcycle designed by Javier. "This series is forcing me to be even more creative than ever," stated Javier, perhaps best known for his superlative work on the WONDER MAN series in MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS. "In the past I've dealt with previously established characters; but with GHOST RIDER, everything is new. My penciling is much less technical now, I'm dealing more with creating a mood. It's a heavy responsibility to create the look of a book and its cast from scratch." Javier is aided and abetted by inker **Mark Texeira** who adds that extra punch to Javier's pencils. "Mark's like a great lighting man in a film" said Javier. "He's a total artist and puts so much more into GHOST RIDER than I might ever have thought of."

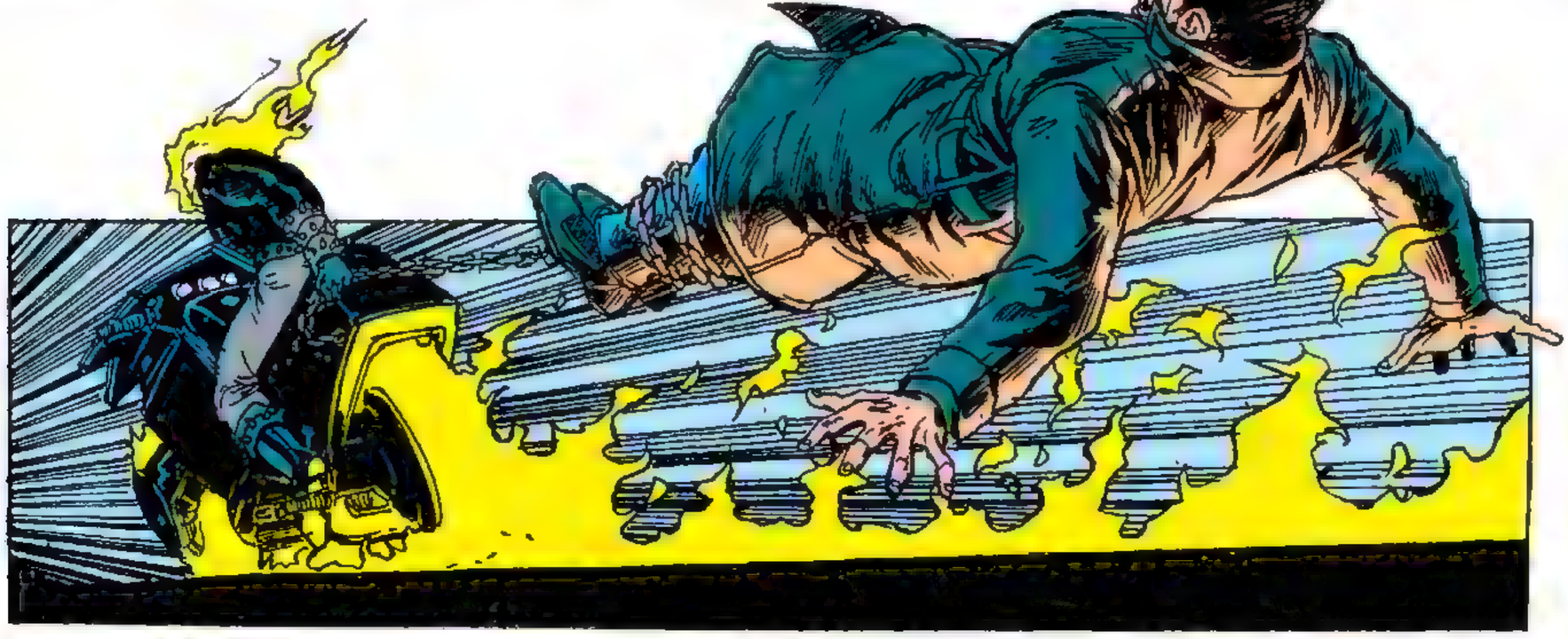
Now the scene is set: moody, urban stories; wild artwork . . . but, what's it all about? Well . . . as we've said, this is the *new* GHOST RIDER. Danny Ketch has nothing to do with **Johnny Blaze,** the last incarnation of Ghost Rider. Danny is possessed by a different demon than Johnny, and lives a markedly different lifestyle. Danny isn't alone in this world, either. When he's not busy riding around with a blazing skull, Danny spends as much time as he can with his girlfriend **Stacy** (a policeman's daughter), and his best friend **Jack.** They're an integral part of both Danny's life and the "feel" of the series. Oh, yes. He also deals with villains. Nasty ones.

Ghost Rider starts off with a bang as he comes face to skull with both the **Kingpin** *and* the **Punisher!** As the series progresses, it's anyone's guess as to who else might surface to try and make his life miserable. Although at the top of the list you'll be sure to find **Deathwatch** and **Nightwalker.**

Deathwatch is truly twisted. Like the Kingpin, he's a formidable crimelord. But the Kingpin has some small vestige of honor and compassion left inside of him. Deathwatch doesn't. In fact, nothing pleases Deathwatch more than seeing people die. He "feeds" on visions of death. He has the perfect right-hand man in Nightwalker. Nightwalker is a mutant. His mutant ability is to drain all the light around him, creating darkness. In many ways, he's the opposite of **Dazzler.** Unfortunately, Nightwalker doesn't know that he's a mutant. The constant darkness has made him a bit psychotic, and he's convinced that he's a vampire. Nightwalker has gone so far as to get fangs implanted into his mouth! Talk about obsessive! Needless to say, he's extremely dangerous and promises to give Ghost Rider a run for his money! But Nightwalker is about as close to otherworldliness as *this* GHOST RIDER series is going to get.

"Howard and I want to stay away from the supernatural element of GHOST RIDER and deal more with crime fighting'" Javier stated. It seems like a good idea, as Brooklyn is not noted for its outbreaks of supernatural activity. In fact, in many ways, Brooklyn is almost a character in GHOST RIDER as well, as it so defines the tone of the book. Given time, Brooklyn might just become the hotbed of Marvel activity, as people get their monthly fix of this motorcycle riding hero and his impressive supporting cast. It's also a sure bet that Howard has a surprise guest or two up his sleeve in the months to come. So, look out, Marvel universe! GHOST RIDER is back with a vengeance, aiming to knock heads with the big boys! Skulls and 'cycles rule!

—John A. Wilcox



MARVEL® REVIEWERS

It looks like a lot of you are glad to have our sensational cyclist back. We sent out black and white copies of GHOST RIDER #1 to our Mighty Marvel Reviewers, and this is what they had to say.

Our first review comes to us from **Aaron "Looney" Lewis**, of Framingham, MA, who said, "You guys have changed my point of view. The original **Ghost Rider** character (**Johnny Blaze**), I felt, was a flop, a crusader with no cause. But once I took a glance at this issue, even just at (GR's) funky new outfit, I knew this would change.

"Anyone who is a **Punisher** fan will like this comic. It holds feelings, fight scenes, and funky faces, all of the three f's I look for in a comic. The artistry gives a great mysterious setting. GR's new outfit and bike . . . make him look like a guy you don't want to deal with. A tie-in with a former super hero associate would be appreciated. With a bit of help (maybe from an **Avenger** or two), Ghost Rider could burn some comic rubber.

"So until Ghost Rider blows a tire (and even after) MAKE MINE MARVEL!" Thanks for the kind words, Aaron. Anyone with the nickname "Looney" is okay in our book! The GHOST RIDER creators assure us they will try to include the three f's in every issue of the new series.

Our next review comes from **Richard F. Wong**, of Union City, CA, who writes, "I think you've got another great comic in the works. If you can keep up the mystery and action that you've started in this first issue, and also branch off into new and startling new directions, you'll have a winner!"

Next up we have a critique from **Costas Implikian**, of Athens, Greece, who had high praise indeed for the new GHOST RIDER. "While reading GHOST RIDER #1," Costas begins, "I received the same thrills (and chills) I had 'tasted' when I read PUNISHER #1. But let me give credit where credit is due. The artwork first.

"Saltares and Texeira have really outdone themselves this time, surpassing everything they've done in the past. Splash pages with Ghost Rider on his 'bike' can be best described as a visual 'feast,' with the right amount of shadows and superb textures.

"The script is also very good, with just the right touch of the supernatural and the needed amount of urban life and feeling. The Ghost Rider's costume is simply smashing and terribly good-looking (quite menacing, also!). I myself love leather—can't afford it though."

Costas concluded, "I have to say that you people have a chance of making comics history. Please don't pass it up." Well, Costas, we can't promise that our GHOST RIDER crew will make comics history, but it certainly won't be for lack of trying.

Our next review comes from **Lewis Martin**, of Dilwyn, VA. Lewis kept his comments short and to the point. Take it away, Lewis! "I really enjoyed GHOST RIDER. The art was above average. The inking was well done. The story was fine. I particularly enjoyed the motorcycle segments. It was action-packed with a good story. To me, that's a great combination. If this is an indication of things to come, I want to see more. A topnotch job."

Thanks, Lewis! (Say, they don't call you "Looney" too, do they?) Our final Reviewer of the month is Lucas Smith of Chatham, N.J., who may not believe in complete sentences, but he knows what he likes. This is what Lucas had to say.

"Combines great art with intelligent writing. Dynamic action scenes and awesome fights. Suspenseful storyline, leaves you on the edge of your seat. Took a complex character like the Ghost Rider and greatly simplified him.

"I know I'm going to collect this comic. I highly recommend it. This comic is too action-packed for ten-year-olds to handle. Keep this comic out of your little brother's hands. Savor it for yourself."

Well, it seems as if all of our Reviewers this month were impressed with the art of Javier Saltares and Mark Texeira, as well as the mysterious setting and turbo-charged action created by **Howard Mackie**. GR's "funky" new suit also scored high marks. Those of you who look for "the three f's" in your comic books just might want to check out the new GHOST RIDER book.

But if you're under ten, you'd better check with your older brothers first!

(Remember, if you want to become a Marvel Reviewer, simply send your name and address on a post card to "MARVEL REVIEWERS," c/o MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y., 10016.)

MARVEL® TRIVIA QUIZ

Of all the heroes to emerge from Marvel's supernatural explosion of the early 1970s, the most lastingly popular was **Johnny Blaze**—the **Ghost Rider!** His 81-issue run (not even including his adventures with the **Champions** and in MARVEL SPOTLIGHT) outlasted that of TOMB OF DRACULA, WEREWOLF BY NIGHT, MAN-THING, and many more fear-stars. Why? Maybe it was the unusual combination of sorcery and motorcycle action, or maybe the unique blend of superheroics and satanic curses.

Or maybe it was the way artists from **Mike Ploog** to **John Byrne** to **Jim Starlin** sent chills down our spines with their eerie renditions of the skull-headed cyclist (I still remember the first time Ghost Rider's riding leathers got ripped, and we saw there was no body inside, just a flaming skeleton—brrrr . . .)

—Brian Nelson

1. Ghost Rider spent many of his last exploits among the good (and not-so-good) people of:
A) the **Quentin** Carnival
B) **Haly Brothers** Circus
C) **Hill**'s Circus
D) Circus of the Network Stars

2. Which Marvel super hero did NOT guest-star in GHOST RIDER?
A) **Daredevil**
B) **Paladin**
C) **Son of Satan**
D) **Arabian Knight**

3. Johnny Blaze lost his world stunt-riding title to:
A) **Flagg Fargo**
B) **Wolf** of **Team America**
C) the **Stunt-Master**
D) **May Parker**

4. Which woman was not romantically associated with Johnny Blaze?
A) **Gina Langtree**
B) **Roxanne Simpson**
C) **Lissa Russell**
D) **Cynthia Randolph**

5. Besides the Champions, Ghost Rider could also claim membership in:
A) the **Invaders**
B) the **Lethal Legion**
C) the **Legion of Monsters**
D) the **Gehenna Highway Patrol**

6. Ghost Rider's gallery of foes included:
A) **Ikthalon**
B) **Hannibal King**
C) the **Water Wizard**
D) the Nevada Traffic Commission

7. Which demonic nemesis of Ghost Rider named itself after a Las Vegas casino game?
A) **Roulette**
B) **Blackjack**
C) **One-Armed Bandit**
D) **Seven Card Stud**

8. How did Ghost Rider defeat the **Hulk**?
A) cycling fast enough around him to create an asphysiating updraft
B) using his hellfire to change the Hulk back to **Bruce Banner**
C) igniting a tanker carrying poisonous gas
D) threatening to kiss him

9. Ghost Rider once dueled the GHOST of which Marvel hero?
A) the **Black Knight**
B) the **Ancient One**
C) the **Phantom Eagle**
D) **Casper**

10. The **Orb,** Ghost Rider's most persistent mortal foe, first appeared in:
A) MARVEL TEAM-UP
B) MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE
C) CHAMPIONS
D) OPTOMETRY ILLUSTRATED

11. Ghost Rider's "inspiration," **Night Rider,** teamed with him against the threat of:
A) **Moondark**
B) the **Apparition**
C) **Centurious**
D) copyright infringement lawsuits

12. Night Rider was also known as:
A) Ghost Rider
B) **Phantom Rider**
C) **Carter Slade**
D) all of the above

ANSWER KEY – 1:A 2:B 3:A 4:C 5:C 6:C 7:A 8:A 9:C 10:A 11:A 12:D

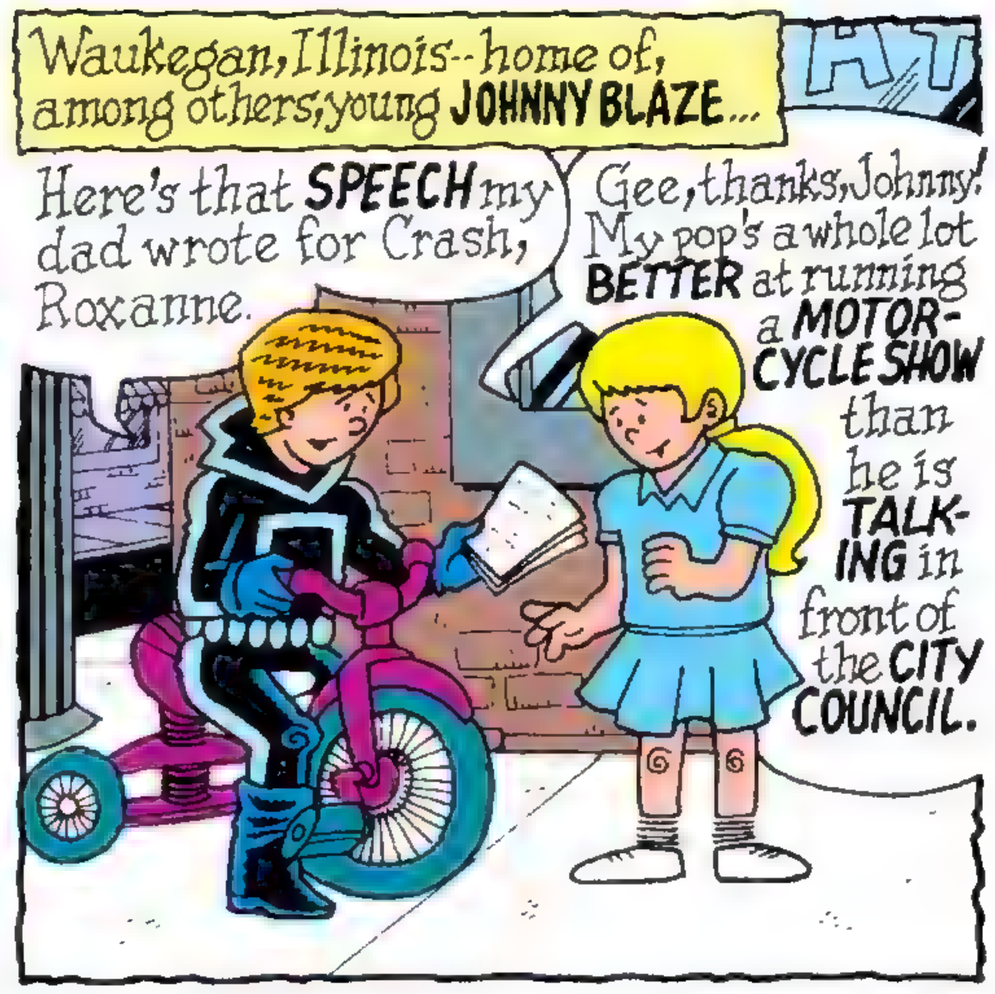
LIL BLAZER

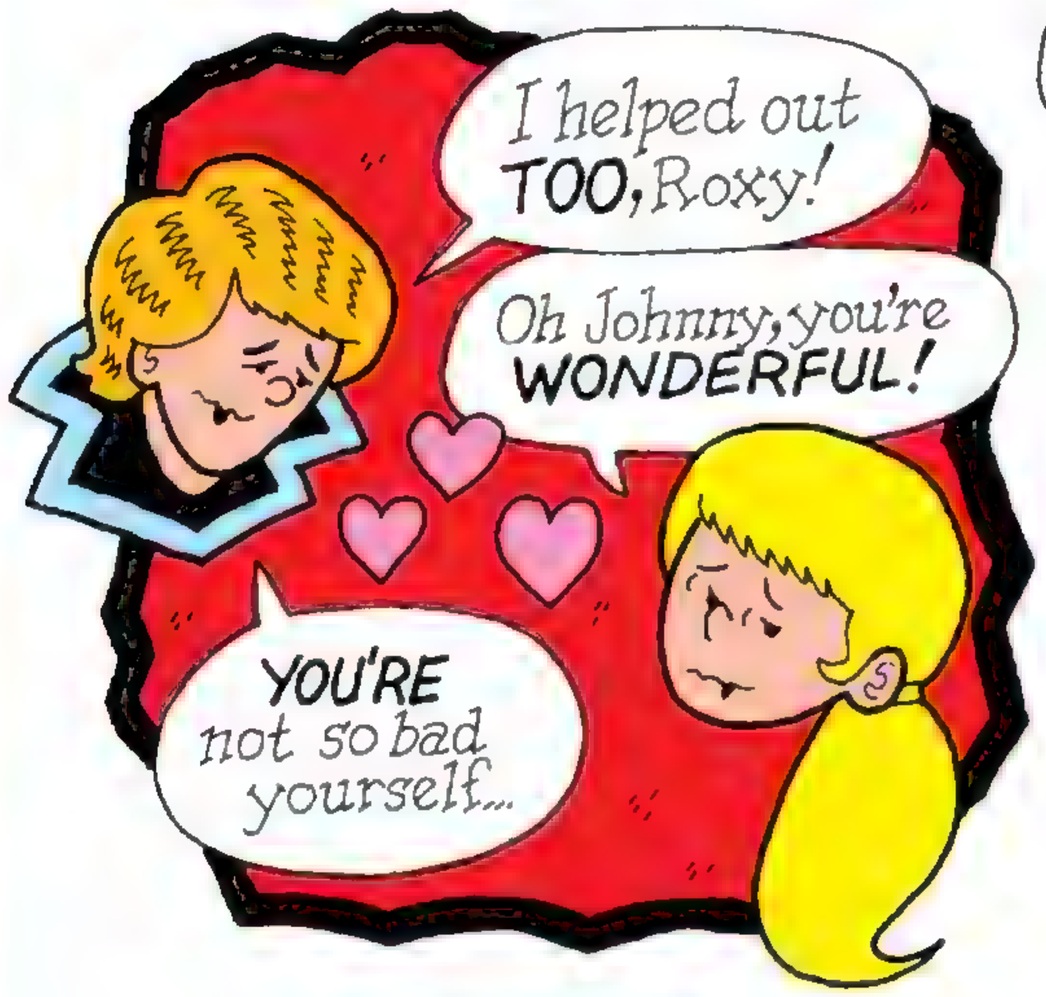
by FRED HEMBECK

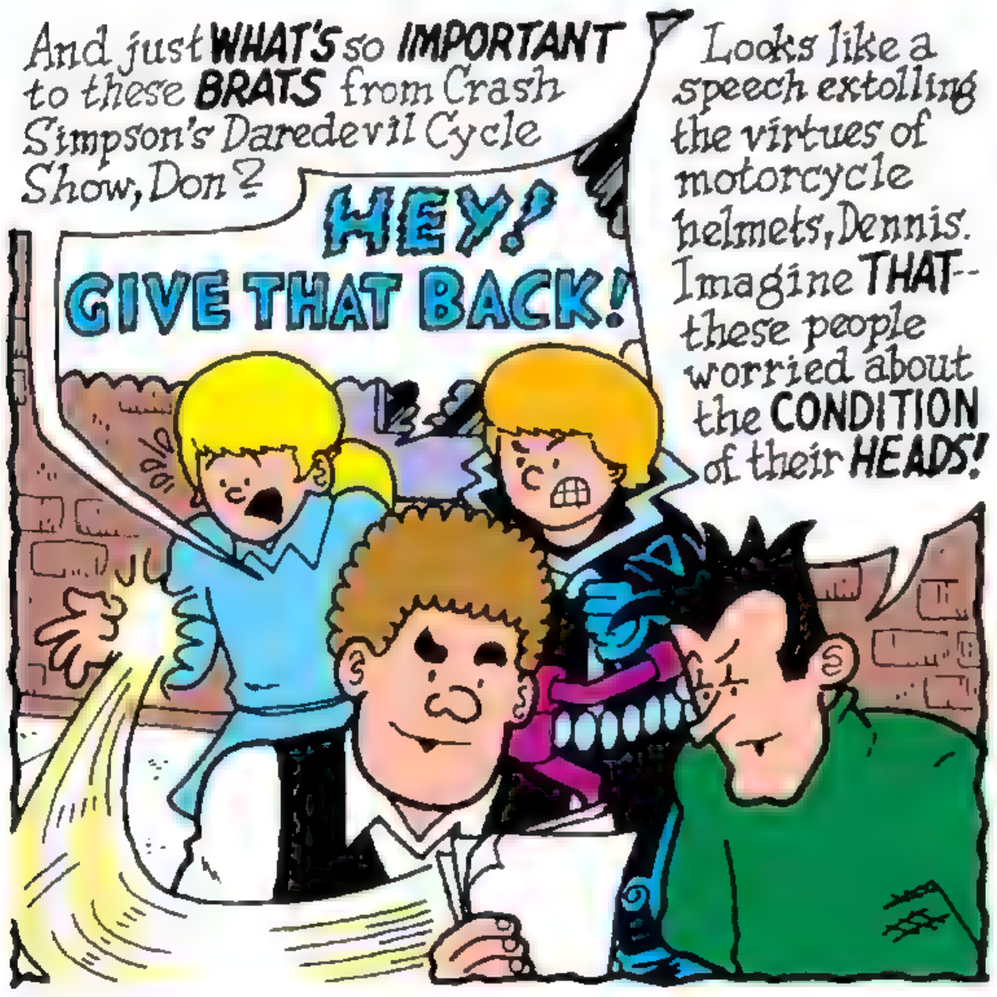
the ADVENTURES of JOHNNY BLAZE

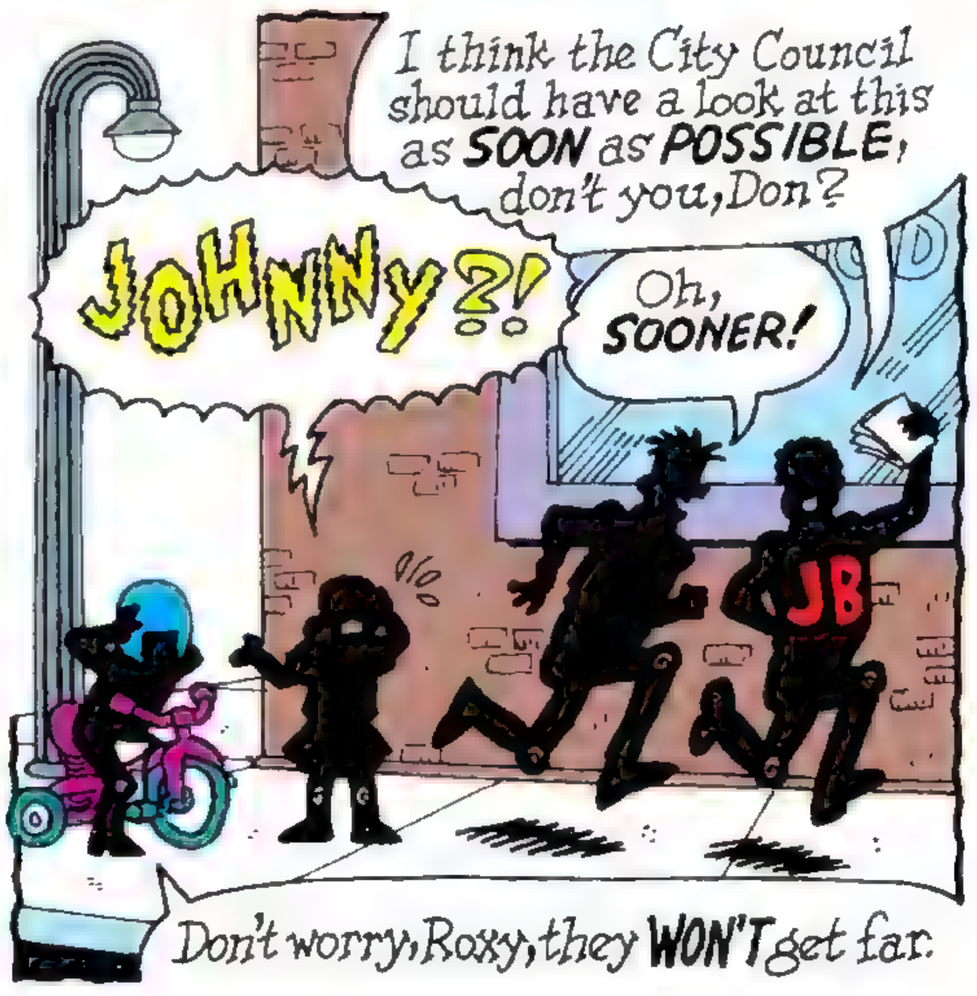
LONG before A DEMON SADDLED HIM WITH THE CURSE of

GHOST RIDER!









What are you running so HARD for, Dennis? There's NO WAY that kid on his tricycle is going to--

PASS US?!

All right, you guys, HAND IT OVER!

WHY? You may be FASTER than us, but we're still BIGGER!

YEAH! You gonna MAKE US?

SKR-EEEEK

?

But Professor LeBlanc?..

NON, Monsieur, zat ees EET--zee LAST note of zee LAST lesson I weel EVAIR geev YOU-- we are FINI!!

EL KABONG would be PROUD!

WAP!

Oh, Johnny, you DID IT!

I got the speech back just like I said I would!

SEE?

..sigh...

SUE!

DRUGS

I'M GONNA SUE!

I...

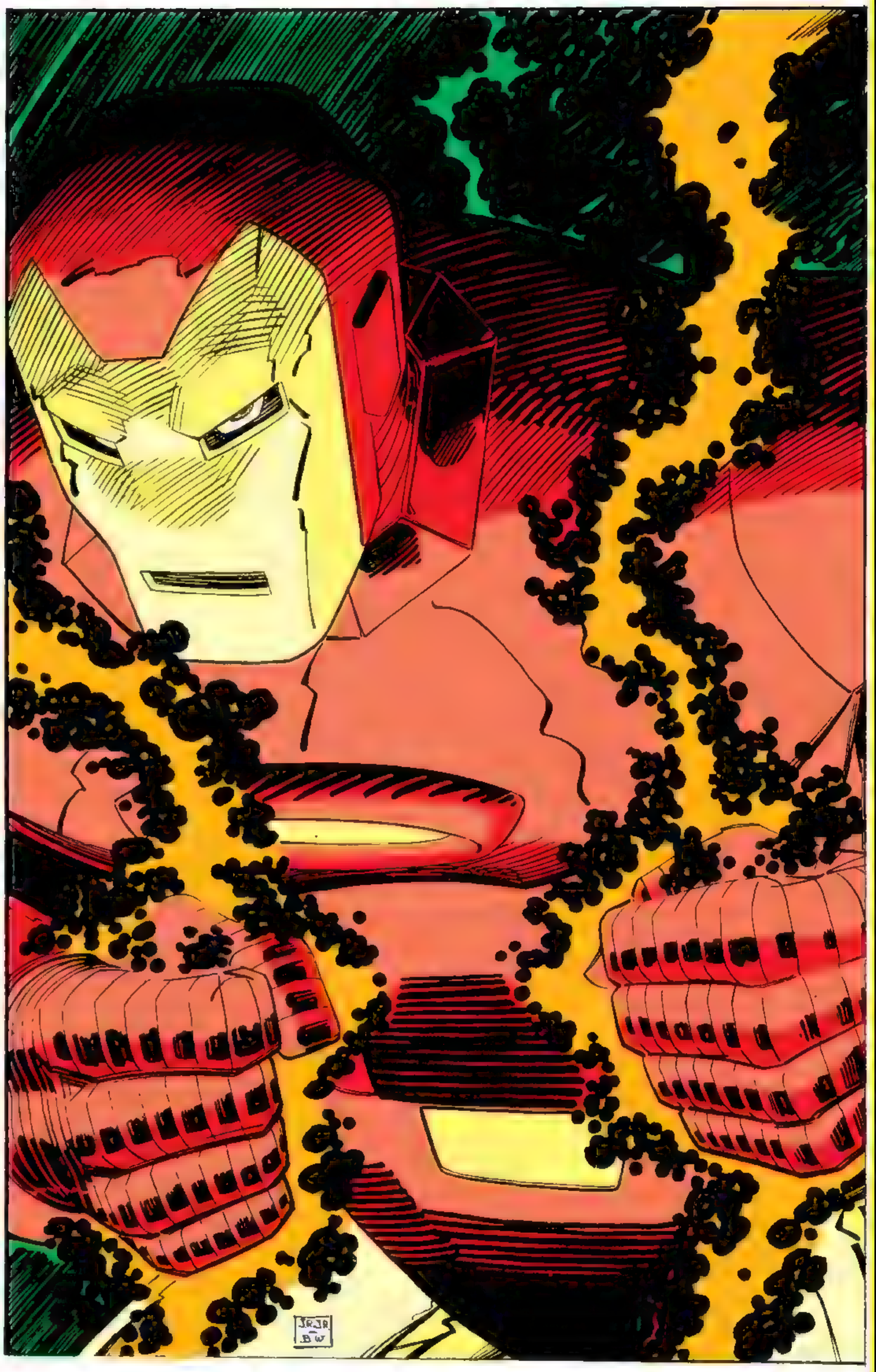
..uhhnnn..

Oh, Johnny, you'll ALWAYS be my HERO!

You bet--and just remember, if need be, I'll alway's be your GHOST WRITER, too!

LOOK FOR MARVEL'S ALL-NEW, ALL-EXCITING GHOST RIDER-- COMING SOON TO A COMICS RACK NEAR YOU!!

JOHN ROMITA JR. INTERVIEW



John Romita Jr. has made waves in the world of comic book illustration, ever since he first made it on to the scene some fifteen years ago. At first, questions were raised to this man's talent and ability, but those few doubters soon fell by the wayside as page after page of gorgeous, innovative artwork began pouring out of him.

After doing odd jobs around the Marvel offices in New York, John soon landed his first art job, which led to a regular gig as the penciler for IRON MAN. Soon afterwards, John contributed to AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, X-MEN, DAREDEVIL, IRON MAN (*again, in Armor Wars II*), and now he's got more projects coming out than you can shake a rapid-o-graph at.

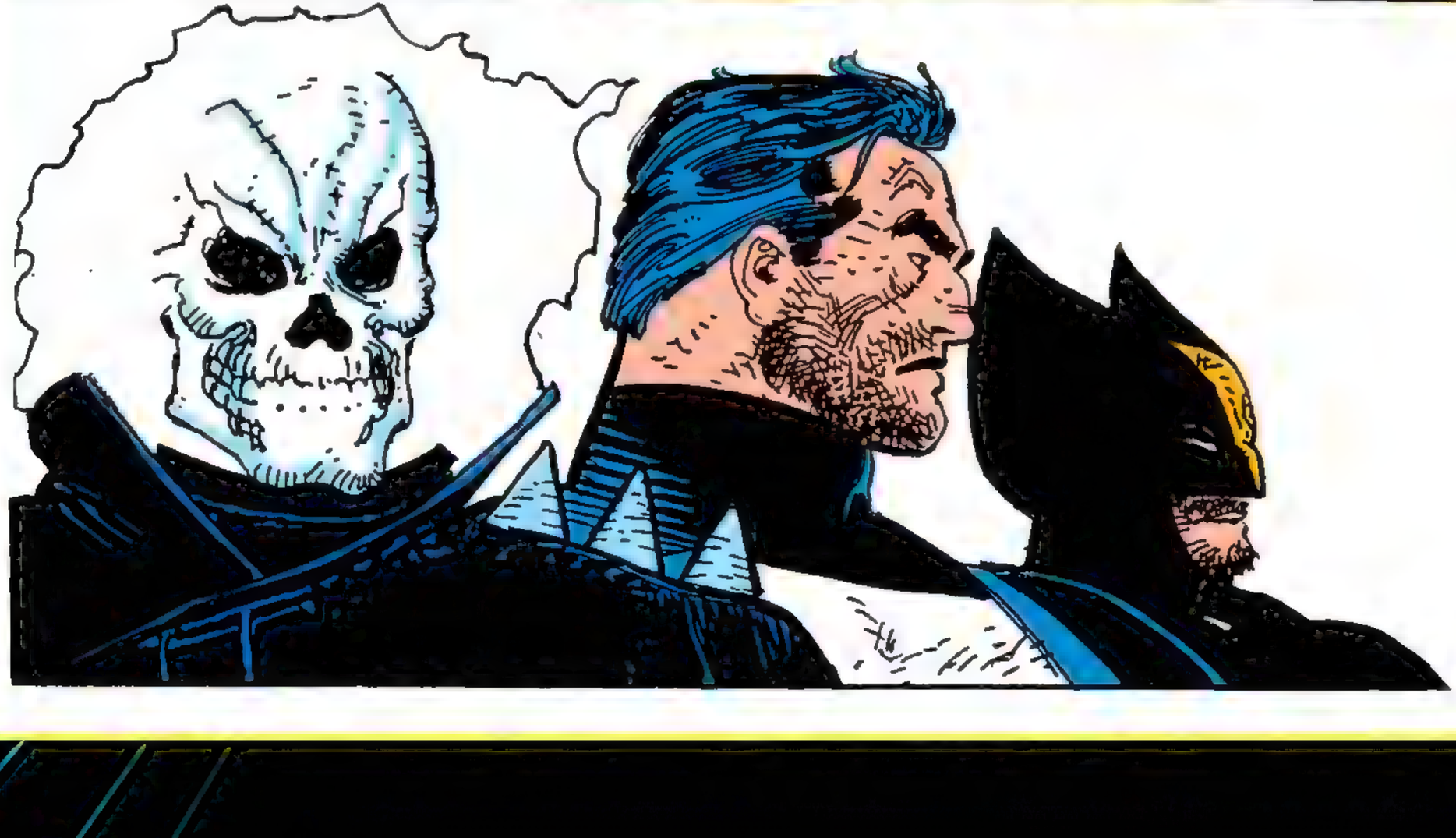
We first spoke to John back in issue #106, about Daredevil's 30th anniversary issue, and that paved the way for this in-depth feature. John talks about his career, what's coming up, and shares some insights for aspiring artists. When we called John at home, he was cutting the grass. So while John got a beverage, I got a pen that worked, and the rest, as they say, is history.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE: *Hi, John. Thanks for taking the time to speak to us.*

JOHN ROMITA JR: Oh, sure.

MAM: *Let's start with the new stuff, and then go backwards, okay? Let's start with you telling us a little about the Ghost Rider/Punisher/Wolverine bookshelf project.*

JR JR: It's called HEARTS OF DARKNESS, although its working title was "*The Edge*," and it should be out inlate November to hit the Christmas season. It was originally going to be a Ghost Rider book, with Punisher and Wolverine



guest starring in it, but it just sort of grew. Everybody's name is on the cover, now. They're all in it equally.

These three guys, Punisher, Wolverine, and Ghost Rider, are pretty close to the edge as they can be. Other super heroes don't go as far as these guys. They'll beat them up and drag them to jail, but these three play for keeps. So Blackheart comes to ask them for help in destroying Mephisto. So he entices them all out to the midwest, to a boarding house, each unbeknownst to the other. He approaches them in their rooms, offering them each their innermost wish. . .not monetary, but what they really want. For the Punisher it's a chance to find the guy who killed his family, and for Wolverine to discover his real origins that are still a mystery to him. He offers the Ghost Rider a chance at solving the mysteries of the Soul Crystal. These would be their most emotional victories possible. Anyway, the heroes turn him down, so Blackheart strikes back by kidnapping a little girl and dragging them all down to Hell, to slug it out.

I like drawing Blackheart and Mephisto. I draw Mephisto the way I did in DAREDEVIL, which is the only time he ever appears like this — when I draw him! I get a real kick out of this supernatural stuff. Howard Mackie wrote the story and Klaus Janson is inking. It's great to have Klaus inking my work again, after so long.

MAM: *Blackheart, again? He's a favorite of yours, isn't he?*

JR JR: Yes, well, I created the Blackheart character, visually, during DAREDEVIL. I didn't create him to the point where he is now, because I envisioned him as more of an earthly creature. So I had the name, and in talking with Ann Nocenti, she suggested, "why not make him the son of Mephisto?" I think he's a neat looking character, all slimy and disgusting looking.

The Devil was an Angel who had fallen from grace and was tossed out of Heaven. Blackheart was a demon, who fell from grace, and thrown out of Hell. So, if you're outta Hell, the only place you can really go is up. Mephisto sees everything that Blackheart does as wrong. Anyway, Blackheart now decides to do whatever he can to bring Mephisto down. Except, when Mephisto cast him out, he put a spell on Blackheart in which whenever he tries to use his enormous powers, he goes insane. So here's this poor, pathetic, wretched creature, who is a bad guy and all, but he's sympathetic. I just think he's neat.

MAM: *You've had experience drawing both Wolverine and the Punisher. How did you like drawing the Ghost Rider for the first time?*

JR JR: At first I didn't know how I'd feel about it. I never really cared for the Ghost Rider one way or another. I didn't care about drawing motorcycles. But then, once I started working on the book for a while, I really began to get a kick out of drawing the guy. For a fan, he's very neat looking, and I see why he's popular, in that respect. So, I didn't like him, until I started working on him. I got into drawing all the spikes, and leather, and chains. . . I wonder what a psychiatrist would say.

So I enjoy the Ghost Rider a lot, now. But I've always loved the Punisher, especially now that I'm working on him regularly. It's special to work on things that you don't go near regularly, you know, to branch out.

MAM: *What did you do with the Ghost Rider?*

JR JR: Well, in this HEARTS book, Ghost Rider's bike is stolen by Blackheart, so he goes to a cycle shop and charcoals one, making it his own. So he even has a new bike in this book. I love taking established characters and putting new angles on them.

MAM: *A lot of the fans have been vocal about these characters appearing in every book every month. They call it "Commercialism Conspiracy." Do you think there's anything to it?*

JR JR: I think there's an aesthetic need in the industry to do what the fans like. But as long as these things are tempered with the lesser-seen works, it all works out. I just finished a graphic novel with Frank Miller, where there aren't any big name characters, no comic book super hero types. Just Daredevil, and he has no costume. It's 150 pages of deep, moody material. It's "commercial" because of the creative team involved, but not because it's got big name characters.

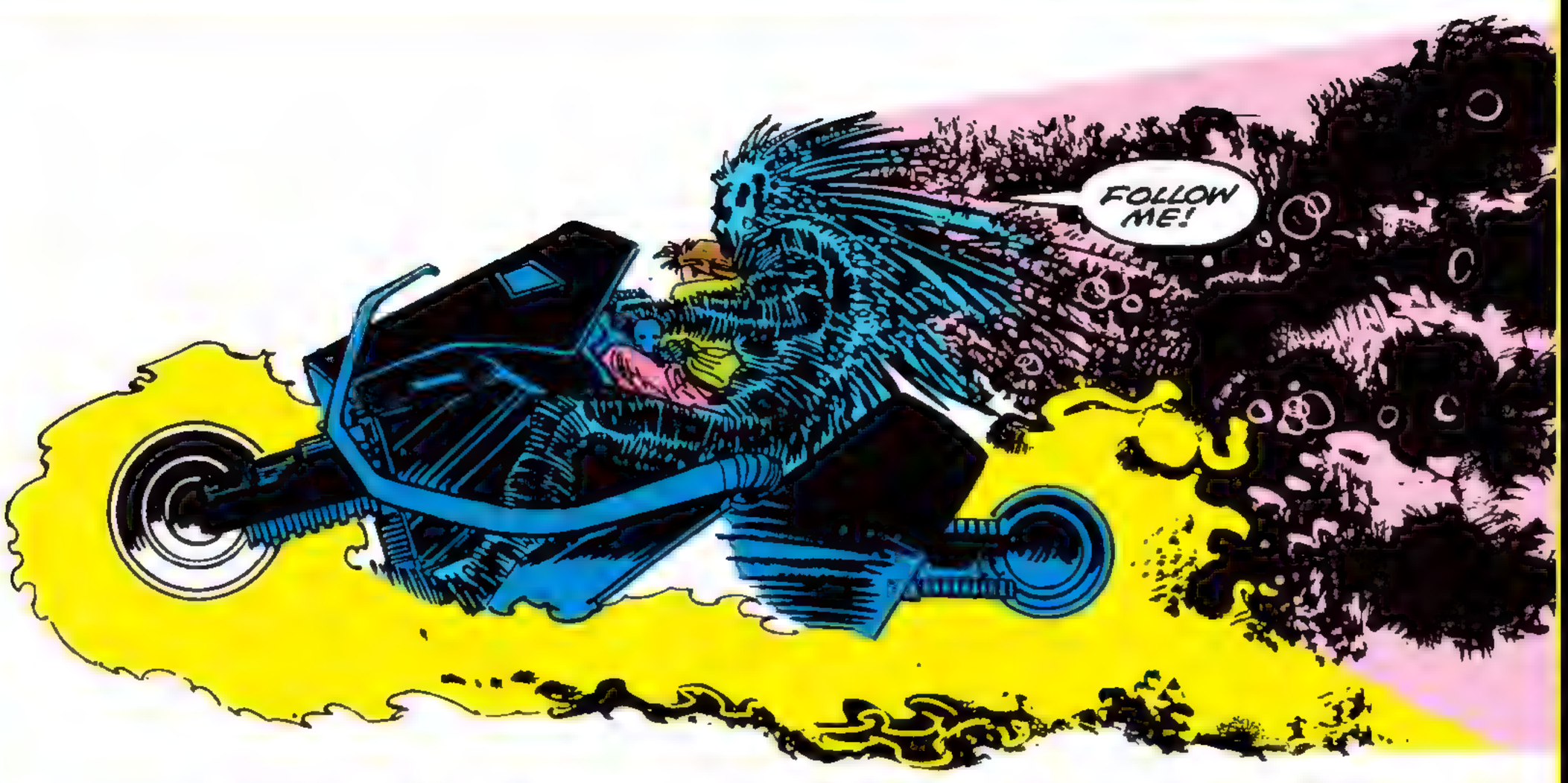
MAM: *What can you tell us about it?*

JR JR: I'd say it's the best storytelling I've done. Daredevil is a non-commercial character, in that his book sells, but he's never in the top ten. I worked on the monthly book for 3½ years. Ann Nocenti and I got critical raves for that book, but it never really "took off," as far as sales go. I worked on an adaptation of Dante's *Inferno*, starring The X-Men, with Chris Claremont. These were aesthetically pleasing books, and now I'm doing a financially successful book. It's a great chance to do a successful work, and there's nothing wrong with that. X-MEN was successful, but that book would be successful with just about anybody doing it.

Sure, there will be people who say, "Oh, why are you doing this, oh, you're selling out," but I really don't think that's true. I've done the things which pleased me artistically. *This* book pleases me artistically. But if you can be artistically fulfilled and pay your bills on time, so much the better. Anybody who says that they do a book like this Ghost Rider/Punisher/Wolverine thing for "aesthetic reasons" is just full of it.

MAM: *How did this book come about?*

JR JR: I came aboard the HEARTS book when Howard Mackie asked me to do the Ghost Rider, and I was busy with the Daredevil graphic novel and IRON MAN at the time. He just asked that I finish the *Armor Wars* run, and I did, as a favor to Howard. So, to work things out, we put Punisher and Wolverine in the Ghost Rider book! It's a commercial book, sure. These are the top characters, right now.



I admit I put on the lipstick and high heels for this one; I walked the street. But I'm not ashamed of it at all. I'm very proud of this book.

MAM: *Which of the three characters do you like the best?*

JR JR: That's funny, because it changed as I went along. I've been working on a new PUNISHER series for Don Daley, and I'd done a considerable amount of work on it. And as I said, I wasn't thrilled with Ghost Rider at first. But then, as I was working on, say, the first half of the book, I really got into drawing Ghost Rider, it was a thrill. Then, about halfway through, I just fell in love with the Punisher.

MAM: *Why's that?*

JR JR: Well, first of all, he's the only Italian character I can think of, and that's important to me. There's a lot of controversy about not having enough black characters or female characters, and there's lots of them! There's only one Italian in the whole Marvel Universe! So anyway, Punisher has become my sudden fave. I really enjoy his character.

Which was a great part about HEARTS, in that I had the thrill of drawing all three guys. But I'm excited about Punisher now, because of the new book. We'll be working with his character a lot in this book. Exploring new avenues of his personality. I've always tried to make the books I do "my own," and I'm changing Punisher's looks a little. I've busted up his nose some, made his face a little rounder. . .he's bulked up some. I think this is as good a work as I've done.

MAM: *In our earlier discussion, you talked about approach. DAREDEVIL was a Mickey Spillane, back-alley approach, and IRON MAN was a more science fiction thing. How would you describe your artistic approaches to drawing these three guys?*

JR JR: Well, they're unique in the Marvel Universe, in that they do have that edge. I think they give everybody a chance to vicariously play out their anger and frustrations about the evils in the world. Wolverine is like the Dirty Harry of comics. Although he doesn't really fit that cliche about revenge, you know? The vigilante justice? He's not the same as Punisher, although every super hero really is a vigilante. Punisher is solely motivated by revenge. He's played the murder of his family in his head a million times, just over and over. So, where DD has other aspects to him, Punisher just has a one-track mind. Daredevil is able to expand and grow as a person, but Punisher's got too many ghosts in his closet.

I can't go into too much detail about the new Punisher book, but I can say that we'll be going into a lot of that stuff. He'll be so paranoid that it's scary. He follows Micro-Chip around, convinced the guy's going to turn him in. We'll be keying in with the organized crime scene. And there'll be a lot of knock-down, drag-out action, too!

I'd like to bring in Shotgun. He's a character I created for DAREDEVIL. Punisher's not just a berserker. It's a new ball game, but the back alley element is still there. He's still got the skull on his chest, but I've got him wearing a big overcoat, and jeans and biker boots. He's just not wearing spandex. All the paraphernalia is still there. I'm just as excited as hell.

MAM: *Why do you think these guys enjoy such immense popularity?*

JR JR: Well, Wolverine is self-explanatory. I think he's been so popular for so long because he's such an animal. Also the fact that his weapons are inside of him's appealing. He's self-contained. You could never take his weapons away from him. It's cool. He's like the Punisher, but he doesn't really have that "vengeance" motivation. Punisher takes it to heart, to the very extreme. There's no middle ground with him. Again, I'd say that the vicarious thrill has something to do with it.

A reader might think, "I'd like to pull the trigger on that guy!," but he probably wouldn't. Punisher would. And if you did shoot somebody, you'd go to jail. . .it's wrong. Outwardly, these two are similar, I guess. Except Punisher carries every gun in the world. They're both kick-butt-take-names kind of guys. You could, hypothetically, do what the Punisher does. Wolverine and Ghost Rider do it in unbelievable ways. They're extreme crime-fighters.

Ghost Rider is the ultimate justice. He seeks vengeance for the victims, but he's different looking, he comes out of left field. Again, there's similarities of the justice theme. Put them together and it's a slice, and shoot, and burn-you-up-team. Mess around with them and you pay the ultimate price in three different ways. Slice, and dice, and go to Hell.

MAM: *In talking with Sam Kieth, he mentioned that while working on a Wolverine story for MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS, he's now enjoying a lot of popularity and acclaim. His point was that it's not the people like Sam so much, but they like that he's doing a Wolverine story. In effect, that you're "standing on the shoulders of the characters you create." Do you find that true at all?*

JR JR: Of course. Any artist is as popular as the character he does. I might not say you're on the character's shoulders, but you do stand next to him. Look at McFarlane — he was around for a while, but Spider-Man made him big. Byrne gained popularity on the X-MEN, and has thrived from that.

On the other hand, you could create a character that really stinks, and you fall on your face. There's what I call *Suicide Books*, which is where you follow up, say Frank Miller on DAREDEVIL, or Todd on SPIDER-MAN. It would be tough not to fall on your face, following an act like that. So I'd agree with Sam, to a point, but I wouldn't say it's a bad thing.

MAM: *Do you prefer inking your own work, or passing it on to someone else?*

JR JR: I love to ink alone. I'm inking a promotional poster for the Ghost Rider/Punisher/Wolverine book. I love to ink, but speed is always a factor. Unless you're working on something extra special, speed really is very important. It's generally a struggle to work fast and work well.

Not only that, but an inker can help fix your mistakes for you. If I'm doing both, I might not see my mistakes. Everybody feels their own way, about this, I'm sure, but I feel there's always room for im-

provement in your work. I was fortunate enough to have Al Williamson for DAREDEVIL, and Klaus for this book and SPIDER-MAN. To work with Klaus again was something I just couldn't pass up. Diplomacy aside, these are the two guys I like best. They're the two I'd want.

MAM: *How tightly do you pencil?*

JR JR: I pencil as tight as anyone. I really try and put everything I can into each panel. I'm noted as having tight pencils. I mean, sometimes, there might be a rush job, or a late night job, but generally, I'd say I'm pretty tight.

I tend to do books in different sections, laying out several pages at a time, and then tightening them up as I go. Sometimes, an inker will call me and say, "You're too tight! Can you loosen up, more?" They say I'm doing all the work! If my stuff was looser, I could probably do more work per month, but this is the way I choose to do it.

MAM: *Here's a boring question for you. Where'd you study art?*

JR JR: I was an advertising major at Farmingdale University for two years. No art schools really covered what I wanted or needed, in the old days. Old days? It was like 1975 or '76. It really helped me out, in any event.

Of course, the best way to improve is to sit down and draw. There's nothing like on the job training. There's simply no way to compare penciling every day for a couple of hours to anything else. If you work that way, you can only improve. You've gotta practice. It's like learning the piano.

MAM: *Was comic book illustration always a goal of yours?*

JR JR: I didn't expect it to be. I don't think my dad wanted me to, I don't know if I wanted to. I just wanted to be an artist. I didn't know what kind. I guess comics were a stop-gap measure for me to earn a living. I was lucky in that I started young. Although it wasn't my original intention, it's my goal now. I still want to be an artist when I grow up.

I still have so much to do. So much to learn. So much to improve. I can only improve, the way I see it. Some of these guys in the business thirty-five years, guys like John Sr., and John Buscema, still claim that there are things for them to learn. So I figure that if *they're* saying that, a guy like me must have *lots* to learn. I can't wait to see what's next.

MAM: *Your father is almost as synonomous with Marvel Comics as Stan Lee. Was it difficult for you to make it on your own in the industry?*

JR JR: Well, I wasn't really conscious of my "style" back then. I don't know if many of the artists back then were either. You see, there were no royalty payments back then. So your motivation was to get as much work done as possible, to do as many pages as you could, as fast as you could. For a time, I was doing two books a month, and it was like "whatever happens, *happens*." There was no need to impress anybody, and the general feeling in the industry was that you were cheating by doing the double-page stuff. We were taught that the more panels you had, the better comic book you had. Twelve panels a page was not uncommon.

Now, because of the royalties, we get the "Pinup Fad." It's the complete opposite. Storytelling just isn't important anymore. I'm not knocking the guys who work this way, because their stuff sells a helluva lot, but it's not *my way*. Sure, I have the double-page spreads and all, and I think that it does have its merits.

Maybe part of this whole fad is that the new generation of artists, and these guys aren't that much younger than me, but they've worked with the sole intention of being *comic book* artists. Now that's okay, don't get me wrong, because you have to emulate someone just to get started. I admired the old-school guys, like my father, John Buscema, Garcia-Lopez. . .these are some of the finest illustrators in the business. But it's important to look at artists *outside* the business too. People like J.C. Lyndecker, guys who just *dwarf* the comic book artists.

Sometimes, I'll get up in the morning, and I just don't want to work. So, I pick up a book by one of these great artists, and it just fills me with energy. It makes me want to paint, to draw, to do just anything that I can. People aren't with comics their whole lives. Some just read them when they're young, others come in and out several times. I can't say I'll want to do comics when I'm 95. I will want to be an artist, though. So I won't say you're

wrong if you only want to read comics, but I feel you're missing a lot of beautiful art.

MAM: *You've managed to work on many of the same books as your father did. . . Daredevil, Spider-Man, etc. Was that by accident, or design?*

JR JR: By chance. I dunno, when I got off the X-MEN, that was really a blessing in disguise. Then I worked on STAR-BRAND, and then I decided to go a little more mainstream. I knew I wanted to work with Ralph Macchio, and when DAREDEVIL opened, I grabbed it. SPIDER-MAN was a fluke, really. I was on that book around '78-'79. It was really the only title my dad did that I consciously said, "I want to do that." So, SPIDER-MAN was really a pet thing. I wish I could do it now that I'm better, more experienced.

MAM: *Here's the obligatory interview question, "What was your first professional job?"*

JR JR: It was a six-pager, called "*Chaos at the Coffee Bean*," and I think it was written by Scott Edelman. Al Milgrom inked it and saved it for me. Then, I did a few things for the British Department of Marvel, laying out new splash pages and covers for the British line. Then, I worked under Marie Severin as an assistant and consultant. I washed windows. I worked with Ralph Macchio on the black & white Conan books. But artistically speaking, the six-pager, then IRON MAN.

MAM: *What can you tell us about the recently-completed Daredevil graphic novel?*

JR JR: To start, it's a more realistic view of the characters. This is the retelling of DD's origins, the definitive, reworked, end-all origin. The book takes us from right after he loses his eyesight, up to when he dons the tights for the first time. It goes into his first meeting with Elektra, all about his training under Stick. It's a super hero story without super hero costumes.

MAM: *You've mentioned that before, how you're taking the Punisher out of his spandex, and this DD book is without super hero tights. Do you dislike drawing super hero costumes?*

JR JR: I wouldn't say I dislike drawing costumes, but I do prefer my books to have that realistic edge. Punisher will still have everything that he needs, he's just not wearing tights. Jack Kirby's original costumes were great, well designed . . .just perfect. They weren't just guys in long underwear. The X-Men *need* their costumes. Spider-Man *needs* his costume. Captain America *is* his costume. Kirby established all this stuff, and nobody's done it better. So Punisher will be wearing what I call a "Non-costume-costume."

MAM: *The comic books are created by a lot of people along the way. . .writer, artist, inker and colorist, not to mention the uncredited Bullpenners. Each person makes his/her mark along the way throughout the production line, and sometimes what you get isn't what you originally envisioned. What are the pros and cons to this?*

JR JR: Well, the con, as you mentioned, is the assembly line. Have you ever heard of "The Telephone Game?" You're on the phone with your creative team, and maybe you live a thousand miles apart. It's hard to really click, sometimes, when you're so far apart. So, to that effect, it happens, but not for the lack of trying. The same situation works just fine when you've got the right people. Good people do good work.

So, sure, it multiplies exponentially either way. If it bombs, then it gets worse times two, times two, times two. But when it does click, it gets better times two, times two, times two. It's two sides of the same coin, is all.

MAM: *Do you aspire to become one of the breed of "Writer/Artists?"*

JR JR: I'm not so sure about them being a "new" breed, but I think the successful ones are those who are capable of it, and not all of them are. I'm able to help out with plotting, I like that. When you're penciling on a schedule, you really don't have time to consider becoming a writer. I intend to do it, but only when I'm ready. I'm just not ready for it now.

"Shotgun" is a character I'd like to write, because I created him, and I have a lot of ideas for him. There are so many things that I want to do, and writing is probably at that last stage for me. I've got a million ideas, so it's really just a matter of time. For now, plotting fills the void just fine.

MAM: *This one goes waaaaaaay back. Bullpen Bulletins had you down as "Hunk of the Month?"*

JR JR: *That* thing again? That thing always comes back to haunt me. It was Jim Shooter's idea, since he had noticed that at the time, Marvel had a noticeable amount of single men. . .Bob Layton, Bill Sienkiewicz,me. Anyway, he said he wanted to do a pinup thing, *Hunk of the Month*, and I said I'd do it if it was a goof thing, tongue-in-cheek. As long as people put it on their dart boards, I'd go along with it.

Well, the thing comes out, and I was completely embarrassed by it. People were calling me up at night, saying "you Bozo!" It was a practical joke at my expense, I was the sacrificial lamb. Even that wasn't so bad, because I figured I wouldn't be alone in this. So I say to Shooter, "who's next?" and everyone just laughed at me. They never did another.

MAM: *Do you have many opportunities to go to the conventions and meet the fans?*

JR JR: Yeah, and I love it. I love to meet the people who actually read the comics. You don't really see an audience's reaction in this business, and this is as close as you come. I love sitting at the table, and kids saying to me, "Did you ever meet Todd McFarlane?" or "What's happening with this character or that guy?" I love traveling, too, although it's more of a labor now.

I'll only do it now if my wife can come along. I've really been taking the year off, as far as that goes. But once these projects hit the stands, I plan to do a slew of them. Probably to the point where I drive myself crazy, but it's too much fun to pass up. But for a while, I got a little burned out on them. . .I was doing too many. So I stepped back, enjoyed a normal work schedule. But I'm ready to do it again.

MAM: *Which characters are left for you to draw?*

JR JR: All of them. Every one of them. There are so many that I haven't done. I'd like to do Captain America, the Hulk. . . all of the old school characters. I've got the "Meryl Streep Syndrome." In that I'd like to explore every avenue I can. She does all sorts of roles, I'd like to do all sorts of books. She does soap operas to Shakespeare, and I'd like to do everything from IMPOSSIBLE MAN to STRAY TOASTERS. I've been in this business for fifteen years now, and I still feel fresh, and I still want to touch upon everything.

MAM: *Would you like to do one of those big "Infinity Gauntlet" type crossovers?*

JR JR: Well, yes and no. It seems to me that a job like that could become a headache and a half. A lot of crossovers seem to be haphazard and crazy. As it is, I'll be on Punisher for the next year, so I haven't really thought about it.

MAM: *Really?*

JR JR: Okay, I'll do it. What the hell.

MAM: *I've mentioned before that your quiet, or "off road" scenes can be more powerful than some other artists' action scenes. Well, I don't want to say that you use a minimum of lines, but they seem to be more powerful because of the way you use them. Do you think that actual drawing has become a lost art in comics?*

JR JR: It's true that the actual draftsmen seem to be a dying breed. The ones I mentioned, Garcia-Lopez, John Sr., and John Buscema, are just my favorites. And there are so many greats outside the business, too. There's a big separation in fandom right now between the newer guys and the more traditional ones. It's obvious. It's ironic that the newer stuff sells, but hey, what do I know?

I've changed, too, to increase my staying power in this business. I try to adapt to the times, which is why I do the double-page spreads. So, I'll do a big gate-fold shot, even though I know it's not great storytelling.

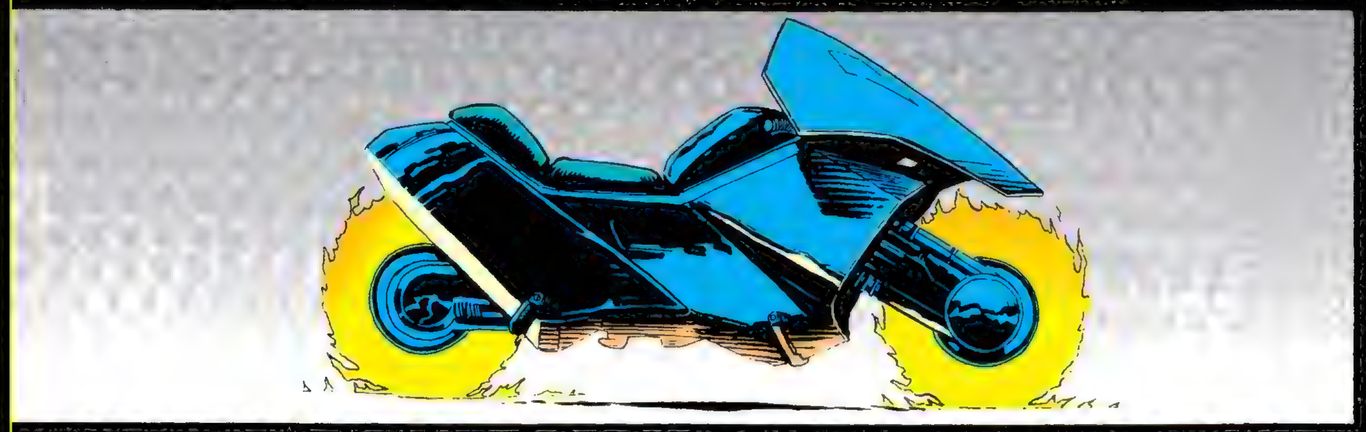
And let's face it. Nobody is on top forever. There will always be a new fad. For years, John Byrne was the top man, because of X-MEN. Now, there's somebody else, and in a couple of months, there will be somebody *else*. They seem to be shorter and shorter intervals, now. At the moment, Jim Lee is my favorite for all-around work. Who'll be next? I don't know.

MAM: *It could be you.*

JR JR: If it was me, I'd be amazed. If comic book artists were a Flavor of the Month, I'd classify myself as "Rocky Road." It might not be the newest, or snazziest, but someone will always be eating it.

— Mike Lackey

SOME PEOPLE WOULD SELL THEIR SOUL FOR A BIKE LIKE THIS —



ESTIMATED MPG

∞ — CITY

∞ — HIGHWAY

Your mileage may vary

SOME ALREADY HAVE !

THE SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE

The Bike For the '90's

MARVEL: 1990 — THE YEAR IN REVIEW PARODY AD BY
LEE WEEKS & GREGORY WRIGHT

THE GHOST RIDER: Spirit of Vengeance Or Spook of the Devil?

He's baaack.

The perfidious poltergeist who punishes punks has possessed a person. Again. Or so it seems.

Recent reports from Brooklyn, New York, have led experts in the supernatural field to speculate that the motorcycle-riding spirit of vengeance has returned from the grave, so to speak. *This* time, his activities seem to center around a specific cemetery known as Salem Fields, and this ghost may actually be a force for good.

Can the Ghost Rider actually be serving a divine purpose? Local news commentator *Linda Wei* doesn't think so.

"Whenever he shows up, mischief is about," Wei remarked at a press conference. "And wherever he goes, innocent victims have been harmed. The Ghost Rider must take responsibility for his actions."

The new Ghost Rider began his appearances in the midst of a shady gang war in New York City. Alleged participants in the war were *Wilson Fisk*, the alleged *Kingpin*, and a "new kid on the block" calling himself *Deathwatch*. Authorities conclude that an environmental hazard was narrowly avoided.

And what of the rumors of a partnership between the Rider and the vicious vigilante called the *Punisher*? An attempt to destroy America's financial center, Wall Street, was apparently thwarted earlier this year by the Rider and the Punisher working in unison. Although the two have not been reported seen together since that time, bystanders claimed that the duo "kicked serious butt."

It was revealed that the acclaimed anarchist known as *Flag-Smasher* and his international terrorist organization, ULTIMATUM (Underground Liberated Totally Integrated Mobile Army To Unite Mankind) were behind the devious and diabolical operation. While their defeat was an obvious act of vigilance, speculations of the rider's intentions continue. The Punisher could not be reached for comment.

Recently, an unidentified task force was hired by community members to track down and put a stop to the phantom biker. The task force, it seems, was comprised entirely of women. During their conflict with the Rider at the above mentioned cemetery, the mutant group X-FACTOR assisted the Rider in his escape. "He's NOT a criminal," noted *Scott Summers*, X-FACTOR's *Cyclops*. "He was only trying to prevent innocent bloodshed."

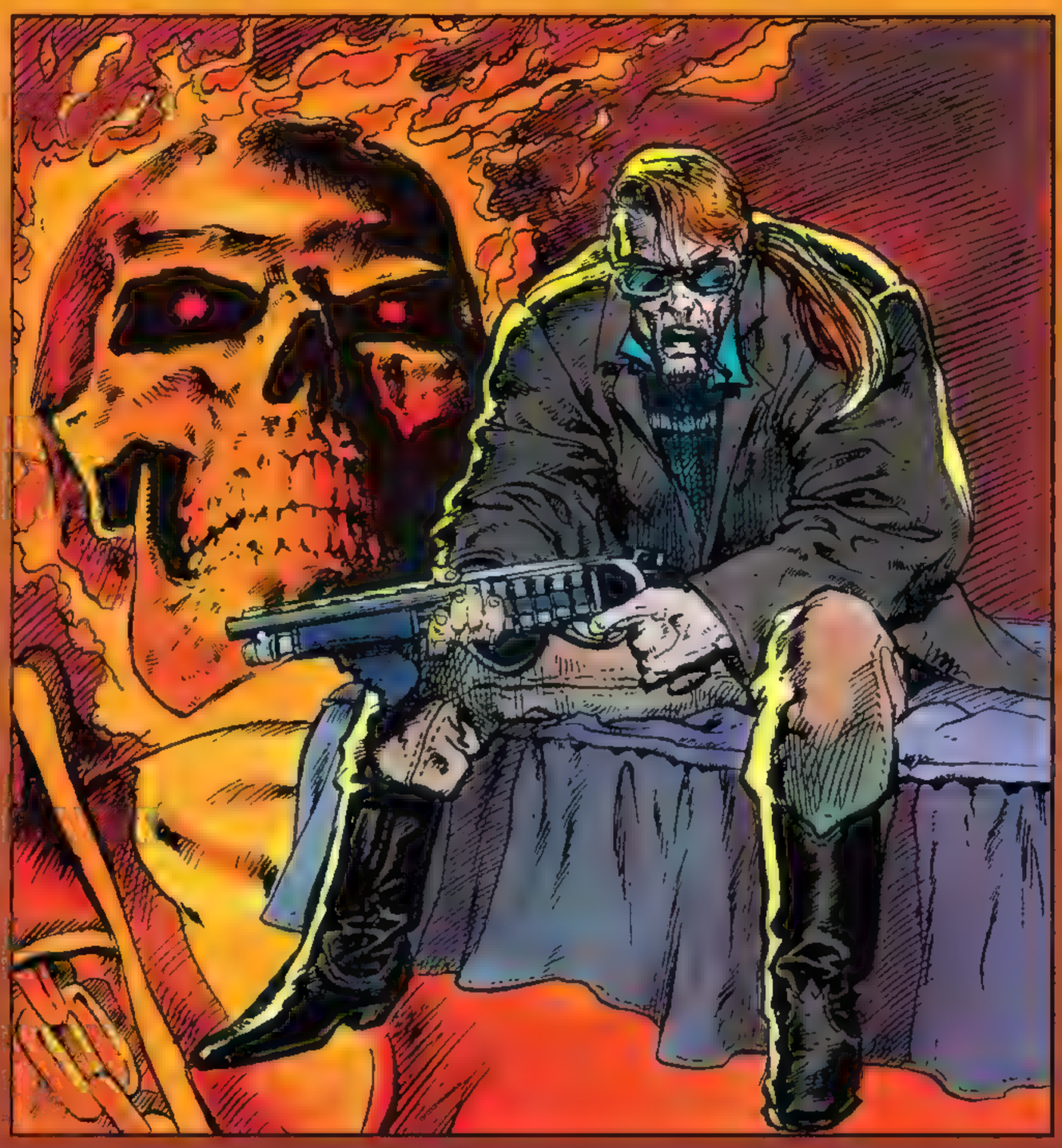
Supernatural experts and metaphysicians alike are baffled by the case. Is this Ghost Rider the old one returned to life? And if so, why has he changed his methods of operation? And if not, who is he? *Swami Hareem Kabababa* of the Church of Extra Natural Light believes he has the answer. "This Ghost Rider is the savior of our peoples," Kabababa said. "He has come to judge our souls and send them riding on motorcycles of light into the great beyond. He added that his congregation would later attempt to find the Ghost Rider and trap him in a genie bottle.

Did they succeed? If the relentless appearances of the Ghost Rider are any indication, it would seem not. ■

— *Gary Barnum*

A MAN CALLED BLAZE

Is the former Ghost Rider back in circulation?



Where there's smoke, there's fire, and where there's *Ghost Rider*, there's *Blaze*... or so eyewitnesses in New York have claimed. A tougher, meaner *John Blaze* has returned from obscurity just in time to battle his own alter ego! Confused? So were we.

Johnny Blaze, you may recall, was the clean-cut stunt cyclist who made headlines years ago when he was said to be the human host to the original, more homicidal Ghost Rider! After repeated attempts to purge himself of the demon, Blaze claimed to have magically imprisoned it, and sure enough, that Ghost Rider was never seen again.

Enter the new Ghost Rider, who last summer was reported to have been in an explosive conflict in Central Park involving the N.Y.P.D., the mercenary organization H.E.A.R.T., and a deformed mass murderer called *Blackout*. Also on the scene was a weather-worn, Harley-riding, chain-smoking, shotgun-toting terror who identified himself to police as "John Blaze!" Eyewitness accounts tell of this man locked in a death-struggle with Ghost Rider, and even blasting the demon with bona fide hellfire from an earthly shotgun! A man matching the same description had turned up in police reports in the weeks before, moving eastward across the the country, fighting in midwest barrooms and fending off muggers in New Jersey! Whoever this guy is, he just can't seem to keep his nose out of trouble! Was he the victim of circumstance, or was he trekking towards a final showdown with Ghost Rider? We assumed so until recently, when the same man was seen fighting alongside Ghost Rider and *Spider-Man* against the *Hobgoblin*!

Was that indeed Johnny Blaze's trademark leather jacket seen peeking out from beneath this man's trenchcoat? MYIR set out to find what had become of Johnny Blaze since he dropped out of sight. We found that he is now the proprietor of the old carnival where he was once a stunt biker. As we approached the home address we had turned up, we rather expected to find some Hell's Angels dive with choppers crunching over smashed beer bottles and Motorhead blaring from a window. We found instead a modest split-level house in a quiet residential neighborhood. Although Blaze himself was suspiciously absent, we spoke to a woman alleging to be his wife, who swore up and down that John Blaze is now a simple family man. He owns a perfectly harmless carnival, she said, and is certainly in no way connected with the occult and certainly not with any demons, flame-headed or otherwise. When we told her of the accounts of her husband parading around with Ghost Rider shooting hellfire at flying goblins in New York City, she turned several shades of white and cut the interview abruptly short.

Thus, we are left with no conclusive answers. If it indeed was Johnny Blaze on that night in New York, then the man who once shared his soul with a demon has become a demon hunter, and by far the nastiest we've ever heard of. If this is the case, we can presume that his mission didn't end with his battle with Ghost Rider or the defeat of Hobgoblin. What other demons or monsters might he have set the sights of that hellfire-spouting shotgun on? Has Blaze become the occult's answer to the *Punisher*?

The way explosive conflict follows this man around, we feel certain we won't be kept guessing for long.

— Kevin Kobasic

MARVEL: 1991 — THE YEAR IN REVIEW ARTICLE BY **KEVIN KOBASIC**

MARVEL: 1991 — THE YEAR IN REVIEW PARODY AD BY
JAVIER SALTARES & GREGORY WRIGHT

GHOST RIDER #15 FEATURED A GLOW-IN-THE-DARK COVER ENHANCEMENT. WITH THE LIGHTS OUT, GHOST RIDER'S FLAMING SKULL GLOWED WITH AN UNEARTHLY MENACE.

CLAREMONT ■ PRICE GUIDE ■ PREVIEWS

INTERVIEW — SILVER AGE TO PRESENT — HOT NEW COMICS

USA $2.50 / CAN $2.95

OCTOBER 1991

WIZARD No. 2

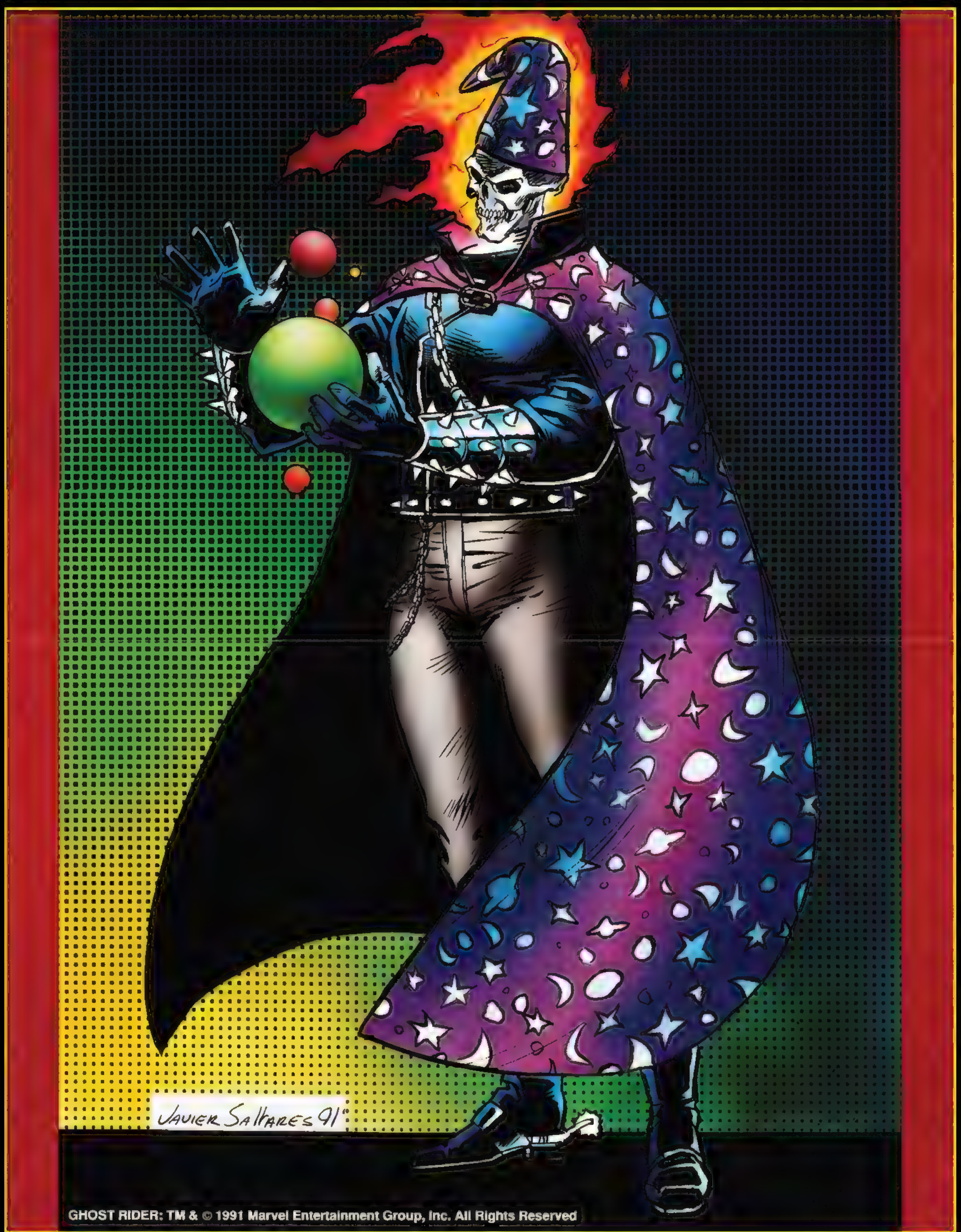
THE GUIDE TO COMICS

WIN A PLATINUM SPIDER-MAN #1 (DETAILS INSIDE)

GHOST RIDER TM & © MARVEL COMICS GROUP

Javier Saltares 91'

WIZARD #2 COVER BY **JAVIER SALTARES**



WIZARD #3 POSTER BY **JAVIER SALTARES**

No.12 $3.95/$4.75 Canada

OVERSTREET'S Price Update

- Completely Revised
- Latest Hot Titles
- Regional Market Reports
- "What's Hot & What's Not" Reports
- Fully Illustrated

OVERSTREET'S PRICE UPDATE #12 COVER BY **JAVIER SALTARES**

OVERSTREET'S Comic Book Price Update

~~$3.95~~ $4.95
in Canada
No. 20
Mar.-Apr.

"America's first and foremost comics price guide"

- Completely Revised
- Latest Hot Titles
- "What's Hot & What's Not" Reports
- History of Comics
- How To Collect Comics
- Full Color Grading Guide
- Future Hot Picks
- Convention Calendar
- The Comic Book Counselor
- Terminology
- Fully Illustrated

Punisher War Zone/Hearts of Darkness Artist
John Romita, Jr.
Exclusive Interview
See Inside ☞

OVERSTREET'S PRICE UPDATE #20 COVER BY **JOHN ROMITA JR.**

MARVEL® COMICS

YELLOW TS

BLACK TS

RED TS

BLUE TS

TRIM

COPY

FOLD

TITLE GHOST RIDER

NO.

MONTH

SCHEDULE

ARTIST JIM LEE

GHOST RIDER #5 COVER ART BY **JIM LEE**

COURTESY OF HERITAGEAUCTIONS.COM

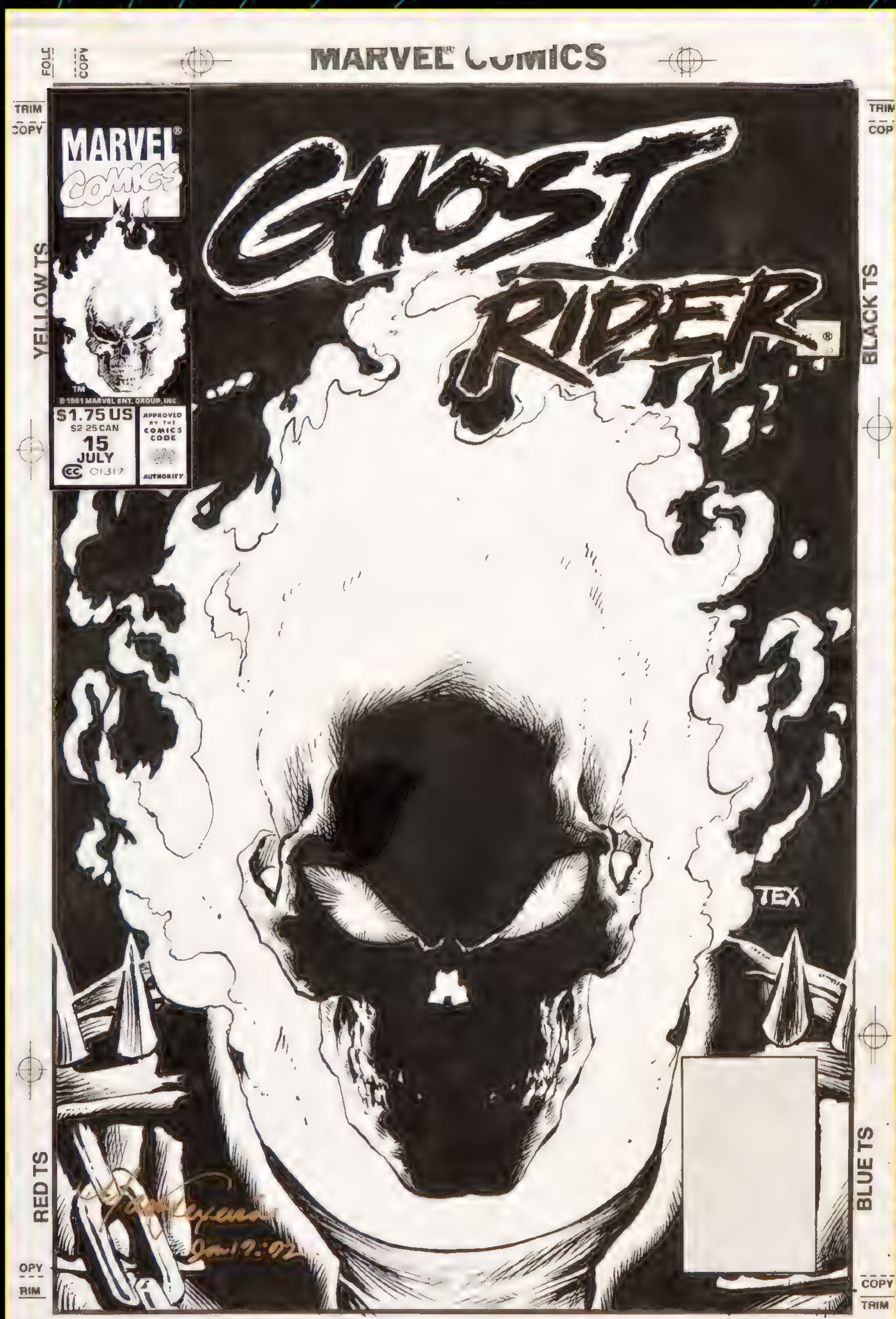
GHOST RIDER 6 17

GHOST RIDER #6, PAGE 17 ART BY **JAVIER SALTARES** & **MARK TEXEIRA**

COURTESY OF HERITAGEAUCTIONS.COM

GHOST RIDER #9, PAGE 21 ART BY **JAVIER SALTARES**, **MARK TEXEIRA** & **JIMMY PALMIOTTI**

COURTESY OF HERITAGEAUCTIONS.COM



GHOST RIDER #15 COVER ART BY **MARK TEXEIRA**

COURTESY OF HERITAGEAUCTIONS.COM

***SPIDER-MAN* #7**, PAGE 5 ART BY **TODD McFARLANE**

COURTESY OF HERITAGEAUCTIONS.COM

MARVEL® COMICS

FOLD COPY TRIM COPY TRIM COPY TRIM 5081

YELLOW TS BLACK TS RED TS BLUE TS

TITLE
NO.
MONTH #117

SCHEDULE

ARTIST

***MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS* #117** BACK COVER ART BY **STEVE LIGHTLE**

COURTESY OF HERITAGEAUCTIONS.COM

GHOST RIDER: RESURRECTED TPB (1991) COLLECTED ***GHOST RIDER #1-7.***
COVER BY **MARK TEXEIRA**

GHOST RIDER: RESURRECTED TPB AFTERWORD BY **HOWARD MACKIE**

I read that someone had been arrested for digging up graves and decapitating the corpses. He claimed to be getting thousands of dollars a head. What kind of sick mind would do a thing like this? And where? Salem Fields. In the heart of the Cypress Hills Cemeteries. Dan Ketch's cemetery! Ghost Rider's cemetery. My cemetery!

The neighborhood I grew up in had changed. This kind of thing just didn't happen when my friends and I were hanging out there. We had respect for the cemeteries that we had adopted as our stomping grounds.

Cypress Hills, Brooklyn is a cemetery. You live there and you're never more than a couple of blocks away from one. They were our schoolyard, park and playground rolled into one gigantic tree-covered hangout.

Hey, trees and grass are rare commodities in Brooklyn! The cemetery was an all-around good deal for us. We considered ourselves lucky. Our friends, from outside the neighborhood, considered us brave (or was it stupid?) for going into the graveyard at night. For us it was just the most obvious place for us to hang out and let our imaginations, and ourselves, run wild. Boy, did they run! And on many nights so did we!

Strange lights dancing in the dark, mausoleum doors swinging open unaided and the odd ear-piercing shriek through the shadows of the night. Shadows that played tricks of the eye and on the mind – or were they tricks? I'm still not totally convinced that some of the bizarre things I witnessed weren't real. If you want to know what kind of things I'm talking about, read the book.

All of this in a place of rest for the dead. And I considered all this normal. I was sure everybody had the same experiences. Didn't they?

Not that I wasn't scared – I was petrified – and so were all of the Brooklyn tough guys (male and female) with whom I hung out. The security and comfort of the cemetery combined with the occasional frights was the entire appeal. We loved it. And more importantly, we respected it!

These are the memories that I tried to dig up years later when I was given the privilege of writing a comic book about the rebirth of the Spirit of Vengeance. In his previous incarnation the Ghost Rider rode throughout the western part of the United States dispensing his own form of vengeance. Was he a good guy? A bad guy? It depended.

Since I had rarely been further west than the Hudson River, I decided to stay away from the supernatural-cowboy motif that had attracted me to the character in the first place. "Write what you know," say the books. What did I know? Cemeteries. Brooklyn/Queens. And the kind of people who live near and around them.

It was fun to reread all the old Ghost Rider comic books. The works of Roger Stern, J.M. DeMatteis et al. I was able to relive my childhood in two ways. The first by returning to one of my all-time favorite comic-book characters. And the second by returning to the old neighborhood, in thought and in deed.

I went back to take reference photos for two of the best artists in the business, Javier Saltares and Mark Texeira. These two have been instrumental in the re-creation of my old neighborhood – or at least the way I remember it. Cypress Hills is real. The cemeteries are real. Ghost Rider...? If the Spirit of Vengeance was hanging out in my old neighborhood, the book you're holding in your hands is the best representation of how he would look and act.

The people of Brooklyn are no-nonsense types. They give no garbage and expect none in return. I like that kind of person.

Dan Ketch is a composite of many of my old buddies. Almost every supporting character has a little of my old friends in them. A little of the old neighborhood. A little of Brooklyn.

Ghost Rider. I never actually met anyone quite like him, but I know he is a hero. There is no doubt in my mind (even though there is some doubt in his and those supporting characters in the book). He wants vengeance. Vengeance for all the pain that has been inflicted on all the innocents that have ever been hurt. And he's getting it one person at a time.

If I were to meet a guy like Ghost Rider, I'm sure he'd be hanging out in a cemetery in Brooklyn. And there would certainly be no grave robbing going on. He is a Brooklyn-born hero.

Thanks for reading about the old neighborhood.

HOWARD MACKIE
1991

GHOST RIDER: RESURRECTED TPB PINUP BY
MARK TEXEIRA & JIMMY PALMIOTTI

GHOST RIDER: RESURRECTED TPB PINUP BY **JAVIER SALTARES**

DOCTOR STRANGE, SORCERER SUPREME WAS A DIRECT MARKET-ONLY TITLE. TO ENSURE THAT FANS WHO BOUGHT THEIR COMICS FROM THE NEWSSTAND WOULDN'T MISS THE CONCLUSION OF THE ***GHOST RIDER*** CROSSOVER, MARVEL ALSO PUBLISHED ISSUE #28 AS A NEWSSTAND ONE-SHOT TITLED ***DOCTOR STRANGE & GHOST RIDER SPECIAL #1.***

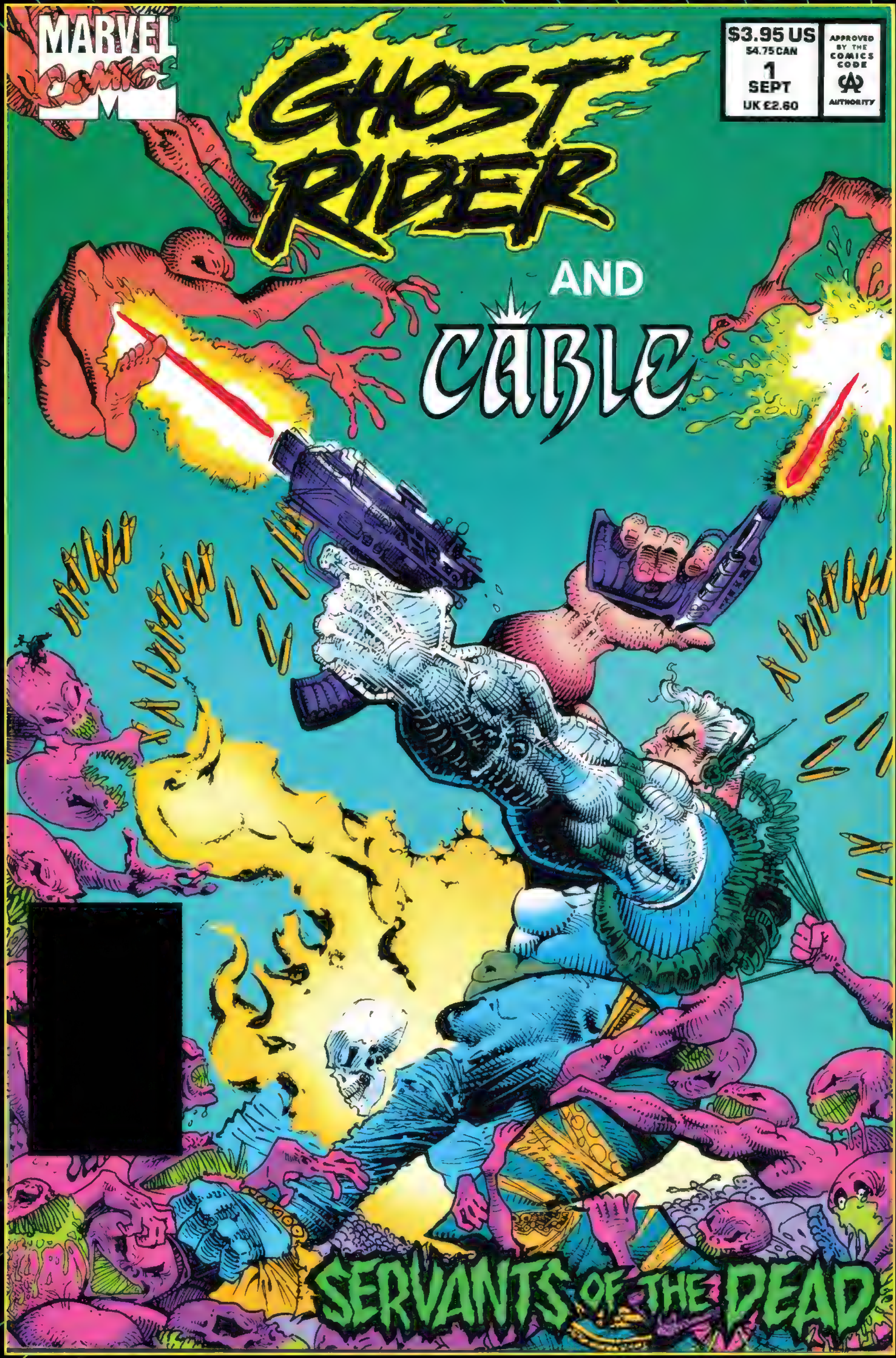
MARVEL comics

ACTS OF VENGEANCE

$6.95 US
$8.70 CAN

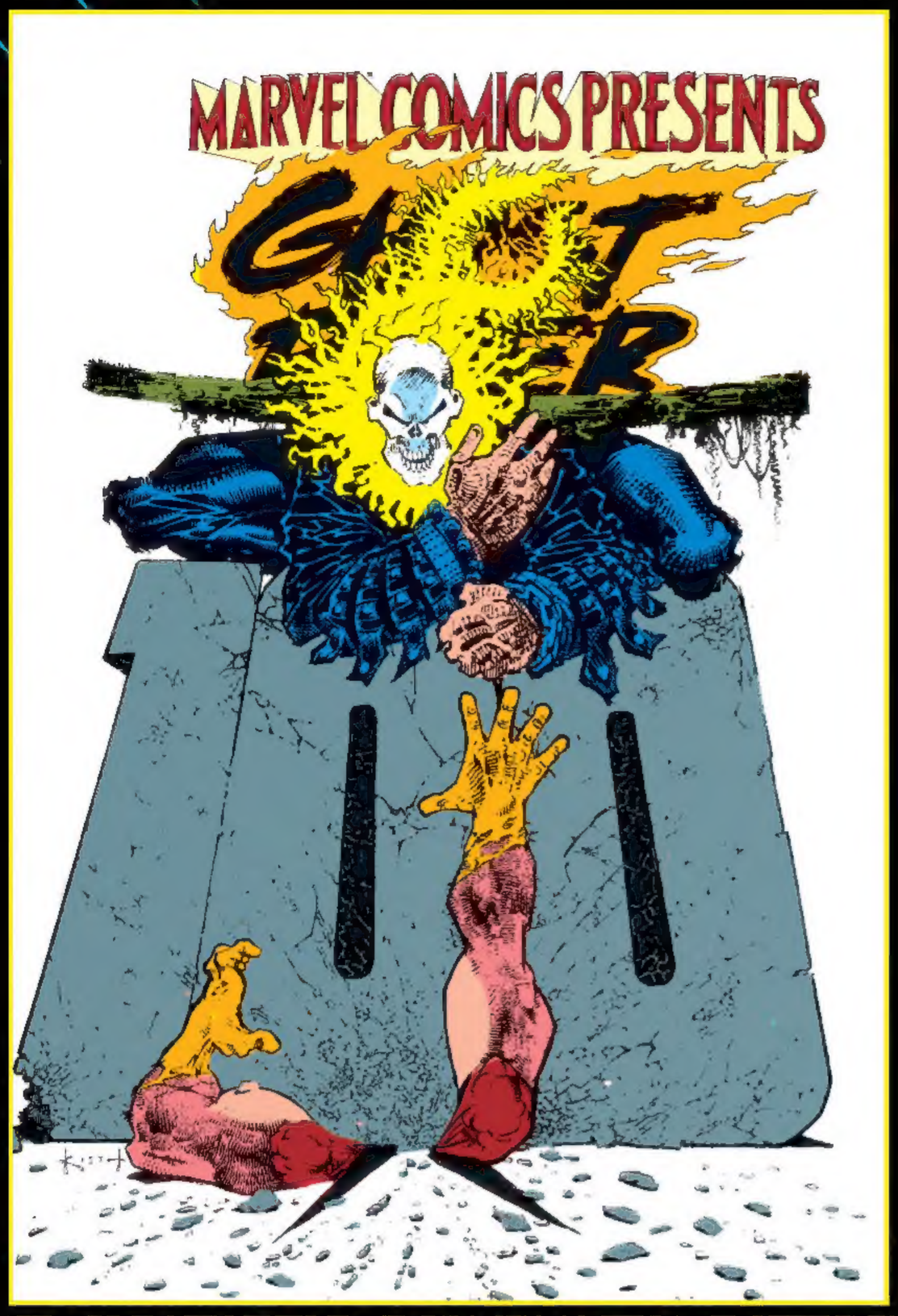
GHOST RIDER • WOLVERINE

GHOST RIDER/WOLVERINE: ACTS OF VENGEANCE (1993) COLLECTED
THE GHOST RIDER/WOLVERINE SERIAL FROM ***MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS*** *#64-71.*
COVER BY **MARK TEXEIRA** & **HARRY CANDELARIO**



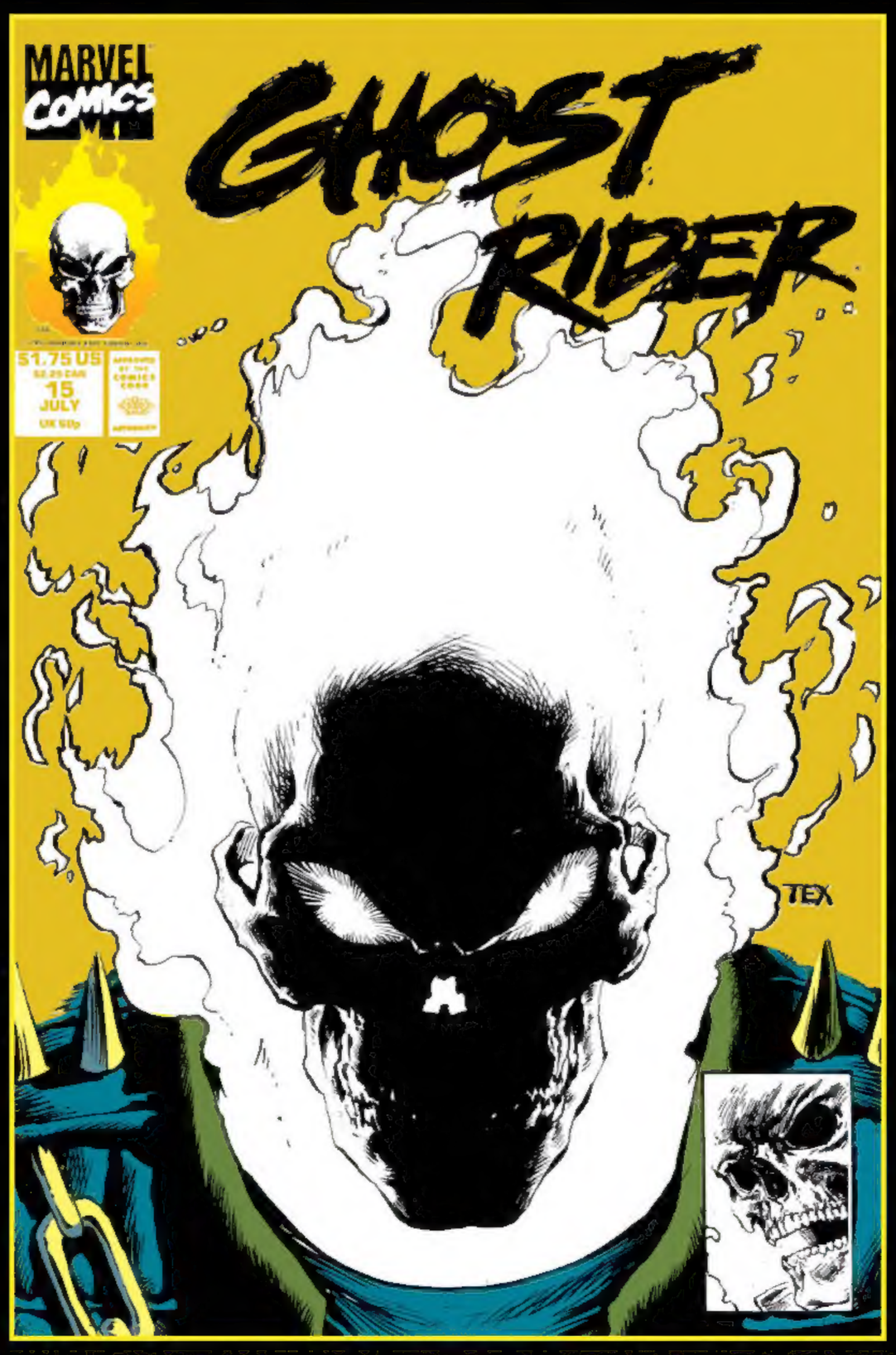
GHOST RIDER/CABLE: SERVANTS OF THE DEAD (1992) COLLECTED
THE GHOST RIDER/CABLE SERIAL FROM ***MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #90-97***.
COVER BY **SAM KIETH**

GHOST RIDER: DANNY KETCH — MARVEL TALES (2023) COLLECTED
GHOST RIDER #1-3. COVER BY **LOGAN LUBERA**



UNUSED ***MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #100***
BACK COVER BY **SAM KIETH**

GHOST RIDER #5 GOLD 2ND-PRINTING
VARIANT BY **JIM LEE**



GHOST RIDER #15 GOLD 2ND-PRINTING
VARIANT BY **MARK TEXEIRA**

GHOST RIDER: DANNY KETCH CLASSIC VOL. 1 TPB COVER BY
JAVIER SALTARES & **JOHN KALISZ**

GHOST RIDER: DANNY KETCH CLASSIC VOL. 2 TPB COVER BY
MARK TEXEIRA & **JOHN KALISZ**

SPIDER-MAN: MASQUES PREMIERE HC BACK COVER BY
TODD McFARLANE & **TOM SMITH**

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS: WOLVERINE VOL. 4 TPB COVER BY
ROB LIEFELD & **TOM CHU**

GHOST RIDER/WOLVERINE/PUNISHER: HEARTS OF DARKNESS TPB COVER BY
JOHN ROMITA JR., KLAUS JANSON & **VERONICA GANDINI**

IRON FIST: THE BOOK OF CHANGES TPB
COVER BY **SAM KIETH** & **VERONICA GANDINI**

KAMIC RIDER
MARIKA